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WEEKLY

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All the NSL Action in ASW!

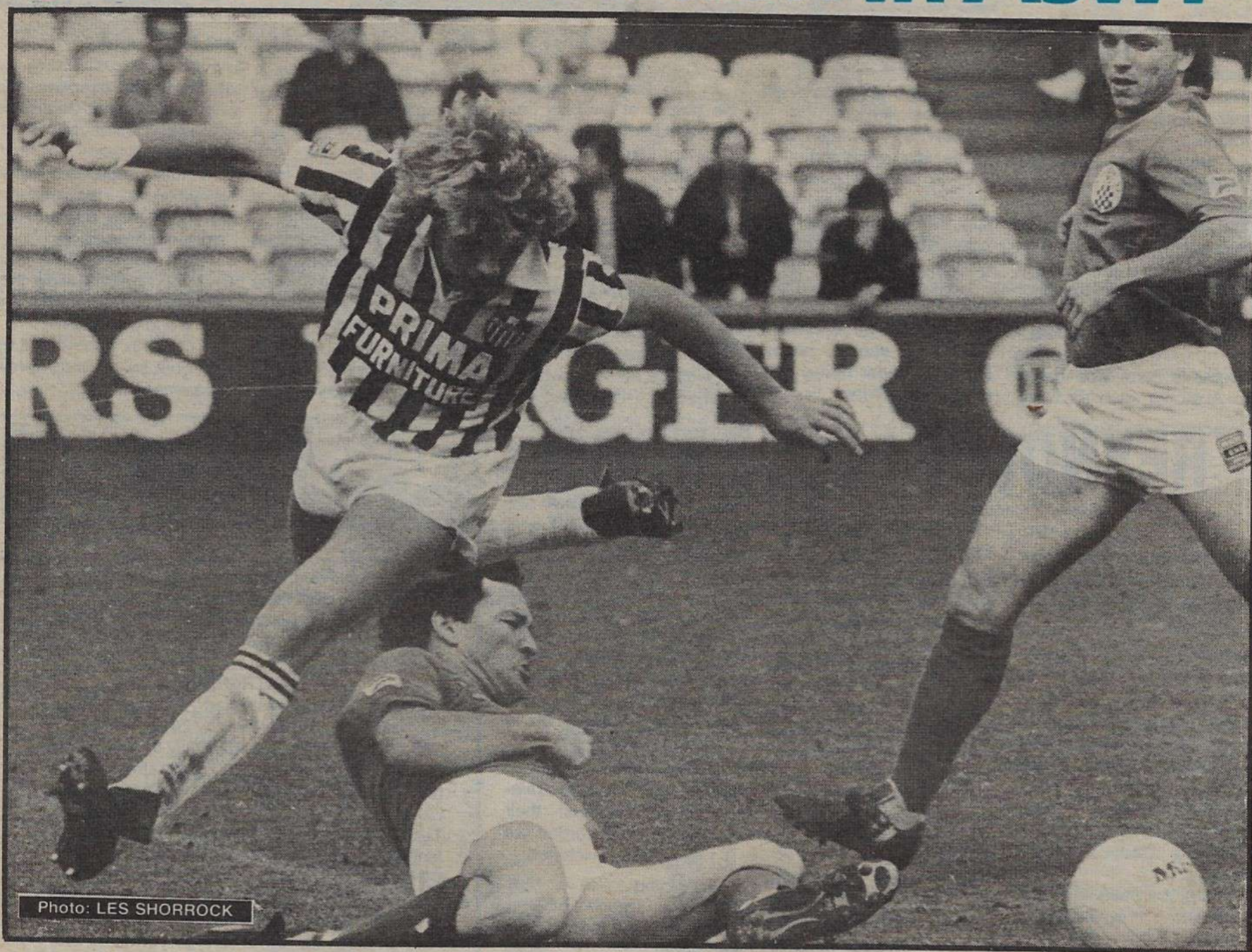


Photo: LES SHORROCK

Sydney Croatia captain-coach VEDRAN ROZIC slides in to defy Brunswick Juventus' ANTHONY GRBAC on Sunday. David Rezo is at right.

APIA'S RETURN TO THE GLORY DAYS!

WE'VE GOT THE STATES COVERED

IT'S APIA'S!

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

FOLLOWING their splendid 3-1 victory over Sunshine George Cross last Sunday, APIA-Leichhardt earned the right to claim the 1987 West End NSL championship.

It would take a miracle of miracles to deprive them of the honour, which technically they need one point to confirm.

Scenes in the dressing rooms after the match at Lambert Park were deafening, emotional and at times comical.

Goalkeeper Tony Pez-zano and striker 'Mr Humility' Gary Ward led the team in songs.

But sitting quietly in a corner was club skipper, Arno Bertogna.

Stripped down to a towel around his waist, the giant warrior, who joined up from Wollongong City in 1982, reflected: "It hasn't

hit me yet. It has been 10 long years for me personally to reach this point.

"I'm just taking it all in slowly, but believe me the championship will taste much sweeter since some experts wrote us off early in the season."

Bertogna has always been a quiet, loyal man to his team.

He has led Apia in 1987 by fine example.

When the team needed stinging up front, Arno would drift up into opponents' penalty areas looking for searching crosses coming in.

Reliable, strong, creative and a born leader, Apia's success has rewarded Bertogna.

Meanwhile, across the other side of the dressing room, Bertogna's partner in Apia's defence, Charlie Yankos, was knotting his club tie.

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OPEN WARFARE OVER NSL QUALIFICATION

SAYS TOM MCKAIN

SUGGESTIONS have been made from Queensland that Adelaide Hellas should be stopped from playing Scottish import Albert Kidd in the play-offs for the West End National League.

He signed for the former NSL club after June 30, the deadline for transfers in every State but SA.

While the latter has the June 30 deadline for players within Australia, it has an "open ticket" for imports.

"I have informed the Queensland Federation that Hellas is within the rules and there is no question of Kidd being banned from the play-offs," said SASF secretary Mr Peter Nikolich.

"Indeed, if there are any queries, it must be the non or late payment, of NSL affiliation fees by Brisbane Lions and Brisbane City.

"We were under the impression that none of the clubs relegated from the NSL last year could play in State Leagues until they met their obligations to the NSL.

"My information was that Lions and City have yet to do this.

"They have no cause to complain."

Next year SA will fall into line

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The Editor

THE 1-1 draw between Australia's Winfield Socceroos and New Zealand left Australian soccer in a state of shock.

Coach Frank Arok had locked himself into the possibility of taking a 2-0 or even a 3-0 advantage to the Hutt Valley for tonight's game and it didn't materialise.

Arok is normally very guarded in his assessments, but this time he was prepared to go out on a limb.

Even given the Kiwis' ability to embarrass or even humble the Roos, Arok's confidence in the Trans Tasman Trophy outcome did not look misguided on face value.

Given the quality of our players and the superiority of Australia's National League over New Zealand it should be capable of recording results of that order.

The missing factor in the assessment however was no doubt the downgrading of New Zealand's will to win, or will to draw if it comes to a single point.

Whilst New Zealand is more reliant on overseas-born players, there are a number of good locals and they know how to defend and catch the opposition on the break.

Even back to Rale Rasic's days as National coach, New Zealand were no pushovers.

The lack of entertainment value in the Melbourne game has led to a call to terminate the Trans Tasman series.

This, we contend would be shortsighted, even if quite understandable. Two major countries exist in the South West Pacific - Australia and New Zealand.

If these two countries cannot develop a healthy rivalry over the years, what hope does Soccer football have in the coming years in the area in an international sense.

By all means take the Australian legs to Newcastle, Wollongong, Brisbane, Townsville, Adelaide or Canberra, but abandonment is surely not on.

The argument that New Zealand gets more out of the series than Australia has its positive side.

The better New Zealand does the better it is for Australia. Ultimately Australia could have an opponent of real football quality.

That would mean of course that New Zealand would have to introduce a more innovative element into its play.

Heavy grounds and rainy conditions will continue to play their part in New Zealand's mental and physical football make-up, but an extra spark is needed.

But Australia and New Zealand must be there for the long haul.

They must meet together in the Oceania Confederation concept, because the smaller countries of the region benefit.

Those countries will never be world powers but they must be encouraged to keep up their progress even allowing for the limitations imposed by their economies and population numbers.

Returning to the Winfield Socceroos, Arok is looking to the midfield zest of Zarko Odzakovic on his day, and the return of burly Gary McDowall to re-introduce the quality and strength of play that he is looking for.

There can be no doubt that not being able to field overseas-based players such as Jim Patikas and David Mitchell is affecting the quality of the squad.

Patikas had a dynamism that is lacking, a point that Sydney Croatia coach Vedran Rozic could confirm.

And Mitchell's ability to turn defenders inside the box is difficult to duplicate, even allowing that players are being gradually trained to undertake a similar role.

The squad itself has a sound base beginning with a goalkeeper par excellence in Jeff Oliver.

The defence has some good qualities, but those with memories of stars such as Peter Wilson, Manfred Schaefer and the great Col Curran could well feel that it has some way to go in its development.

Midfield must improve to give service, strikers must develop more craft to succeed when the day comes to face up to the powers of the region, when it comes to winning an Olympic Games place in Korea next year.

It has become quite clear that Australia's presence in Italy in 1990 for the World Cup finals will call for a miracle of monumental proportions. With the Oceania winner to be drawn to meet the third South American national, the road ahead is rocky indeed.

—oOo—

Once again attention has been drawn to the needless harm to human life occasioned by spinal and neck damage to players in certain sports.

Time and time again the accent has been on the rugby codes, motor cycling and also Australian Rules.

Players, parents, in the Eastern States in particular have grown accustomed to the lack of serious damage to players in the Soccer football code.

They have come to the game in droves in spite of overwhelming media support for rugby league.

Between 80 and 100 sports players end up paralysed each year in Australia due to neck and spinal injuries sustained in sport.

In over 20 years of recorded statistics, it is not possible to find one such case in soccer.

WALLACE, ESTAVILLO — WHAT A DUO

RALE RASIC gives his upmost thoughts and views in his ASW column. Outspoken and frank, his stories make engrossing reading.

IT is all too easy to mix up speed in the sense of running, with speed which is represented by the ability to play and think quickly.

So, in the latter category, I would like to point to two dynamic stars of Australian soccer who learnt the arts overseas in entirely different circumstances.

The first is Ian Wallace, gained by Melbourne Croatia this year, and the second the great Vince Estavillo.

When it comes to playing with absolute simplicity, Wallace would be hard to beat.

The way he comes to the ball or works off it shows there is no wonder that he once brought \$A2 million on the transfer market.

I suppose players like Wallace and Estavillo would be the first to agree that age is beginning to tell, but any keen supporter who watches them is quick to spot the touch of genius that sets them apart from so many others.

You have to look to other overseas stars who came to Australia such as Dixie



VICENTE ESTAVILLO steps out against St George's Craig Moffitt in a recent NSL match.

Deans and Roberto Vieri to see their like.

Estavillo is a player who possesses everything.

Each time he goes out there he displays skill, superb temperament, intellect and it is all done in a gentlemanly fashion.

He sends through balls ahead with deadly accuracy. Recently he has been displaying superb shooting skills under heavy and difficult conditions.

In the last few weeks, the quality of his play has exceeded what many well-known internationals can turn out.

I think it is fair to say that Wallace and Estavillo demonstrate what Australian soccer is lacking.

These players are contrasts in style but they are complete masters of different situations.

Wallace is magic when it comes to 1-2 moves, and

close in he flicks the ball beautifully.

Estavillo at his best is a deadly scorer. He can send players through from virtually any position or distance.

The way he goes about his tasks has convinced me that he must have eyes in the back of his head.

As superstars they operate differently to some of our more straightforward players.

Take for example our national team defenders Charlie Yankos and Robbie Dunn.

I fully appreciate what they do for the national team as well as for their clubs each week.

But I would be less than truthful if I didn't allow that Wallace and Estavillo are in a world of their own.

I certainly hope that they will both be there for a few seasons yet.

REYNOLDS LEADS ROOS

BY KEITH GILMOUR

YOUNG Socceroo captain Kurt Reynolds is in fulltime training in preparation for next month's World Youth Cup finals in Chile.

"I gave up my job as a shop assistant at David Jones in Parramatta to train continually.

"My flatmate (and squad member) Brett Hughes works with me and Mike Urukalo supervises us."

That's the outlook of the confident, well-spoken Reynolds, the boy from Launceston who won a contract with Blacktown City in the NSW State Bank League.

He's the first Tasmanian to make a national team. His solid play and leadership qualities saw him installed as captain, just as Hobart defender Dominic Longo won his place as skipper of the Australian under 16 side in the recent World U16 Tournament in Canada.

Not unexpectedly, he generally agrees with the squad put together by experienced youth coach Les Scheinflug.

"The core of the team was already there. What had to be fixed was the last couple of places," Reynolds said.

Anthony Grbac, David Healey and George Bouhoutsos became the lucky players.

It turned out that the dynamic Scott Ollershaw was the odd man out.

A former Australian schoolboy star, he had to make way for the gifted John Anastasiadis, nippy Paul Trimboli, and Western Australian star Alistair Edwards and hard-running Jason van Blerk, although in many books he would have been certain of a place.

Others to miss the cut-off point were David Barrett, Peter Gunning and David Latham.

That aside, Scheinflug has chosen a strong squad. Nine have had National League experience.

The one who has not been playing regularly is Brett Hughes, but he has overcome knee ligament problems and has been well prepared for the tour.

Only Lou Hristodoulou was young enough to survive from Jim Shoulder's 1985 group.

The squad was fortunate to begin with matches against Czechoslovakia in 1986 — games which emphasise the class of the players.

Against distinguished opposition, they recorded two clear wins before losing 4-1 when fielding an experimental side.

The big setback was a 5-2 loss to New Zealand, but it turned out that a slap on the wrist was what was needed.

Last November the team reached the quarter-finals of the Queens Cup in Bangkok. Coping with the heat and general climatic conditions was yet

another hurdle they overcame.

The results in the qualifying tournament in New Zealand in January were 6-0 v Fiji, 1-1 v Israel, 3-0 v New Zealand and 5-0 v Chinese Taipei, which took them into the finals in Chile.

In addition the squad gained from the New Caledonia trip. Against their senior side they forged out 3-1, 6-1 and 1-0 victories.

According to Kurt Reynolds, much of the strength of the team lies in its depth.

Reynolds himself should fit hand in glove with three other players. Brett Hughes and Darren Northam are also members of the Blacktown defence, whilst Jason van Blerk is a winger with the club as well.

On the personal front, the confident Reynolds sees the possibility that an overseas career could be beckoning.

"I have a year to go on my Blacktown contract.

"If something crops up which is worthwhile I would have a word with them to seek my release," he said.

The squad is: B Hughes, D Healy, G Kulcsar, K Reynolds (capt), D Northam, J Koch, L Hristodoulou, J Polak, P Trimboli, A Saad, J Anastasiadis, J Van Blerk, J Markovski, A Grbac, A Edwards, C Moffitt, A Cummings, G Bouhoutsos.

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CRINO COMING BACK TO HIS PEAK

ASW's Melbourne writer GREG BLAKE
talks it over with Winfield Soccerroo star OSCAR CRINO

SOCCEROO maestro Oscar Crino has had more than his share of critics this season as both he and his club have struggled to find top form.

The silken-skilled Footscray midfielder has struggled against injury both before and since his early season transfer to the Schintler Reserve club.

And it has been he and fellow imports like Kenny Murphy and Tyrone James who've borne the brunt of criticism as Footscray have fought desperately against the drop.

But a mini revival in recent weeks — and the controversial 'Scott Fraser' decision — has seen the Footscray side out of immediate trouble.

And Crino went much of the way to silencing the critics with a super display in Footscray's sensational 2-0 win away to high-flying Sydney Croatia.

"Well, I'm still not too sure of how safe we are yet," Crino told me.

"And we still have to put in some good performances yet to prove that we can play good football.

"Until last week we hadn't really been able to turn it on for one reason or another.

"Sometimes we tend to play good games and then all of a sudden we're back to looking very ordinary.

EASTHORPE Wollongong star

RANDELL EASTHORPE was born in Durban, South Africa in August 1966, is 183 cm tall and weighs 78 kg. Randell is single and lives with his family in Toongabbie, and started his junior soccer with Blacktown City.

He moved from there to Penrith City and made his senior first grade debut in 1984 against Sydney City. As a junior he represented in the NSW CHS school-boys team.

One of Randell's most memorable moments was a training stint with the famous Liverpool club in England under direction of Kenny Dalglish.

Randell came to the 'Wolves' just before the transfer deadline in 1986 and was very disappointed that the Wolves were relegated at the end of that season.

Randell is an electrician. A badly damaged right foot put Randell out of soccer for six months, however this did not dampen his enthusiasm for the game.

Randell has a burning ambition to once again play NSL soccer with the 'Wolves' in 1988 and all of Wollongong and his fans hope he will do just that.

"I've got a feeling though, that that is part of getting together a good side.

"If you look through this year's side you'll see that there's lots of new players and I don't think they know each other's games as yet as well as they should.

"That's probably why we get caught out of possession every so often and why we give away silly goals."

Much was expected from Crino when he joined the Blues.

Crino's ball skills are legendary in his home state and the elegant midfielder artist was under pressure to perform at his most devastating right from the word go.

That was never going to be the way as the Aussie international fought his way back from a near complete twelve month lay-off.

"In the last three weeks I've been carrying a thigh strain which has caused

me a lot of worries and that has stopped me doing many of the normal things", he explained.

"But I've been able to carry it and it is improving.

"The criticism of my form hasn't worried me too much because people have to look at the reasons behind what is happening.

"Unfortunately every time I get going, something happens to hinder me.

"I was in reasonably good form before I went to Korea but just after I came back I broke down again.

"I should never have played last week (against Marconi) but I just tried to come in because one of our players was injured and we only had thirteen fit players.

"I shouldn't have taken the field the way my leg was.

"But whenever I've been fit my form has been good."

As far as title chasing is concerned Footscray's



OSCAR CRINO in Footscray colours this season.



season was over long ago.

The bottom line is that for whatever reason coach Drago Sekularac and his half-dozen new signings have failed, at least this year, in their bid to get a trophy back to Schintler Reserve.

'Seki' — providing he remains — and his potentially fine team must wait until 1988 before launch-

ing another championship bid.

Will the much sought-after Crino be leading Footscray's charge next campaign?

At least for the time being Crino is not prepared to commit himself.

"It's a bit early at this stage of being thinking of next year," Crino says.

"There's still seven games to go and there is plenty to be considered.

"Footscray has got a good bunch of boys down there and the atmosphere there is good.

"The coaching staff is great as well and in guess there are the types of things one must take into consideration when you're deciding whether

you're staying or you're going.

"Apparently the club is very ambitious for next season and they will be looking for more players and the way it seems now they will be knocking on the door next season.

"But at this stage myself and all the other at the club are concerned about finishing this season."

DEMONS' INVESTMENT HOLD-UP

BLACKTOWN City secretary Peter Thorne is no stranger to matters contentious, and yesterday he fired a fusillade from the Demons' modern club headquarters in the outer Western Sydney suburb of Seven Hills.

"We could put between \$1 million to \$2 million into improving the Gabbie Stadium.

"But we won't do it at this stage because there is no continuity of operation in the National League in Australia," he said.

So, while money goes

out galore in airfares, the chancy nature of soccer at top level tends to limit vital investment.

Although Blacktown are outside the West End NSL, and in fact gaining a place did not leave a big priority with them in 1987, they are ready to heed the call at the right time.

"Four clubs in NSW this year deserved better than State Bank League status. They were Wollongong City, Melita Eagles, Canberra City and ourselves," he said.

Whether it is viable to bring a club into the NSL from Perth remains to be seen, but remember just how much we have to offer.

"At the end of the day Blacktown will be a regular member of the top league. The point will be how many of the present leading clubs will be there with us."

Blacktown after a magnificent early start, finished just outside the NSW winner's berth.

Thorne admits there

was a sting in the tail, in that the Demons had the best goal difference without ending up with top points.

Dealing with the NSW State Bank League, he said there were some disappointing aspects which could be improved for the future.

Blacktown won their NSW under 19 competition and the U16 Youth League championship and ran second in U14. So four out of six teams had a deal of success.



BLACKTOWN Action: Adam Sandy goes up for a header.

From front Page

line with all other States on the transfer deadline, but as the rule stands at the moment Hellas could fly in players provided they meet visa requirements and did not take the club over the regulation two.

The SA champion is due to play the champions from Queensland and Victoria for a berth in the NSL.

They want to take on the Queenslanders as soon as possible, with the Brisbane clubs having only one more league round to play.

A request has also been made to Victoria for a quick decision on a play-off date, but this is not likely to be available until October as the Victorian State League does not finish until September 26.

Hellas is also opposing moves by the Victorians and Queenslanders to nominate a candidate if their champions do not want to compete for a national competition berth.

"The rules say champions, and only cham-

pions will compete," said Mr Nikolich.

"We will hold the ASF to that ruling."

Victorian club George Cross is also attempting to enter the play-offs if it finishes last in the NSL.

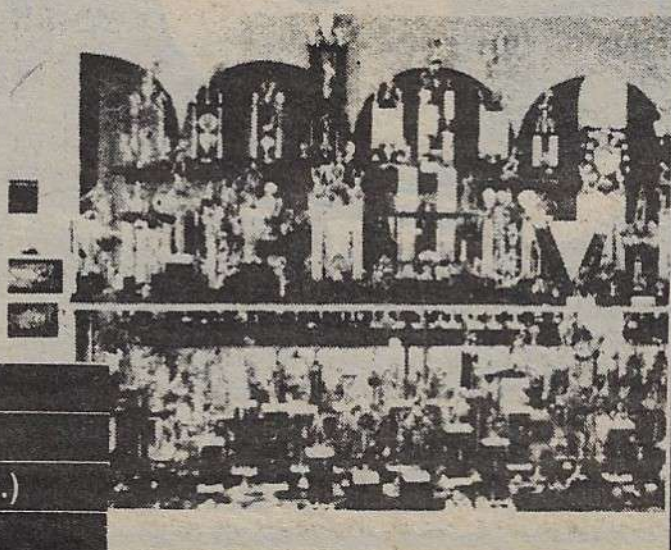
It will also apply to take part if the Victorian champion refuses a berth.

Polonia, Green Gully, Caulfield and Fawkner are fighting for the title but only Gully and Fawkner have publicly said they will bid for a spot in the West End League.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

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It takes two to tango

TALENT FROM MARCONI AND SYDNEY OLYMPIC

OLYMPIC started against Marconi with similar tactics to that which undermined APFA in the early stanzas of last week's game.

They played out with short controlled passing from the back. This continental style of play resulted in Marconi's midfielders being drawn forward out of position.

Meier, Coady, Ratcliffe, Phillips and Dakos were very effective in this style of play.

Dakos was twice involved in the movement that culminated in his brilliant early goal.

It is significant to realise that the goal was created as much by basic backline plays, as by Dakos's clinical finishing.

Olympic were in attack again when Marconi struck against the run of play.

Robert Catlin's long clearance was flicked on to Farina who scored a memorable equaliser.

Hantzis, Estavillo and Raskopoulos enjoyed the benefits of getting short ball from their backline and being supported by them.

It is essential however that ALL players are cap-

BY JOHN DOYLE

able of playing this style of game, if you don't want to lose possession in dangerous situations.

Robert Hooker is such a dedicated player, he will learn that this style of game does not always involve racing forward with the ball every time the opportunity arises.

Running out towards the midfielders with the ball only closes yourself down and fails to draw these midfielders out of position.

Suddenly Olympic's early superiority was no longer evident. The game became an open exciting end to end contest with Olympic tiring once again in the final minutes.

Marconi would be happy with the return to fitness and form by Tommy McCulloch.

An exciting new power and precision is back in the Marconi midfield with Wheatley demonstrating great skills in this position.

He linked brilliantly with the exciting trio of McCulloch, Mason and Gray. Replacements Gunning and Lowe fitted smoothly into this powerful picture, demonstrating a bright future

for Marconi.

Marconi were exceptionally dangerous from Gray's long throws flicked on by Gomez and from McCulloch's nearpost corners to Calderan.

Gary Meier would get Eddie Thomson's man of the match for his efforts at these times.

This exciting game was fast but also furious.

Referee Chris Bambridge did well to keep the game flowing but Raskopoulos' excellent contribution was ended by a tough tackle.

Dakos released the very willing Phillips on the right and the excellent far post cross was headed wide by replacement Kosmina.

It shows how time out of the game can affect concentration -- Kossie normally sinks these.

The Olympic left side by now had started to leak.

Estavillo is talented in possession and is eager but not intense enough in defence. Spiro Hantzis is exciting coming forward but can improve his game by hitting the front man a second earlier and by picking up his attacker on the goal side.

The faster Gomez made huge runs against Hantzis because of this and it's

lucky for Olympic that Gerry has not honed his dribbling or crossing skills to match his enthusiasm.

Unless Eddie Thomson clarifies the defensive roles of Estavillo and Hantzis Olympic may never realise their considerable potential as a team.

In the last 15 minutes Olympic were ripe for the picking, however Marconi were satisfied with just stroking the ball about without the running necessary to win.

Only Lowe showed the necessary killer instinct to go for the prize.

Marconi are gifted with everything but this important instinct, and Olympic have a similar problem with Patalis who could become anything if he presses ahead.

Eddie Thomson and Roberto Vieri cannot inject

their players with this. It must come from the desire and determination of the players themselves.

The game that gave such promise was entertaining but could and should have been a show-piece for skill in soccer.



Marconi v Olympic action. Our Modern Studios photographer captures the battle from Bossley Park as Gary Phillips of Sydney Olympic (left) does his best to evade the Fairfielders' Ian Gray.

WE NSL FIXTURES SUNDAY SEPT 13 RD 22 KICK-OFF 2.30PM

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v MELB CROATIA
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS v MARCONI
PRESTON MAKEDONIA v APIA-LEICHHARDT
SOUTH MELBOURNE v HEIDELBERG
SYDNEY CROATIA v ST GEORGE
BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS v FOOTSCRAY
ADELAIDE CITY, bye

St George Stad
Chaplin Reserve
Connor Reserve
Middle Park
Croatian Sports Centre
Olympic Park

NEXT WEEK

Footscray v Sydney Olympic
Melbourne Croatia v Sunshine
APIA-L'hard v South Melbourne
Heidelberg Utd, bye

St George v Brunswick
Marconi v Preston
Adelaide City v Syd. Croatia

Apia-from the front page

Yankos had been knocked out by an inexplicable kick to his chest and side of his jaw just half an hour before during the match. But Charlie was able to muster up a smile and say: "It's certainly a very nice feeling but we deserve our success."

Drying himself after a shower, Apia's highly efficient Peter Tredinnick smilingly said: "It's been a hard long season for us since early January with four nights a week training, but we have as good as got there."

Tredinnick, a Sydney-based solicitor, despite being one of Apia's very

main reasons for success this year, made a surprising comment.

"They keep telling me that I have had a good season, yet I feel my own form has not been that good. It's really ironic, isn't it?"

"Anyway, nobody but nobody can claim that winning the title was a fluke."

"It has been 21 weeks of sheer perseverance by all the Apia boys," he added.

Despite Tredinnick's self-assessment, there is no doubt in my mind that he, together with fellow midfielder Terry Butler have been largely responsible for at least 50 per cent of Apia's impen-

ding success.

Week after week the two have gone about their business with professional efficiency.

"Treds" and "Tex" have been Apia's quiet architects.

Their unyielding pressure has paralysed opposing sides to the point of surrender with non-stop, spotlessly clean tackling when defending.

And in attack, these two have always been there.

Both have hit space wide, dragging defenders with them, or whipped in countless crosses for their marksmen.

Standing tall in the middle of the dressing room was Apia's coach, Rale Rasic, witnessing with immense joy his team's celebration.

"The match was an important occasion for us as

it was the final nail towards winning the Championship. My boys have earned the honour that is coming their way.

"This is something that won't ever be taken away from them," Rasic proudly stated.

The NSL Championship is set to be the first major success for Apia since 1965, when they annihilated St George 7-1 in a Grand Final at Sydney Sports Ground.

On that most memorable day former triple World Cup star, Johnny Watkiss, rifled in a personal tally of five goals.

Since then, Apia's lack of success was broken only once when Peter Wilson's 1983 NSL side won the National Cup.

Certainly great times will be celebrated again at the APIA club.



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BEER
AT ITS BEST

LIVE IT AROUND A WEST END EXPORT.

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HURRAH! MEANINGFUL GRAND FINALS

Writes ASW'S GREG BLAKE

THREE cheers to the NSL for announcing the return of the grand final series from next season.

This is the type of progressive action needed to give the game the kick in the pants it needs.

By its decision the NSL has virtually said that stuffy tradition must go out the window — and not before time.

Summer Soccer, three points per win, divisions and conferences — all are untried or tried and failed 'experiments'.

The finals system of deciding the championship from 1984 to 1986 was a raging success and the NSL cannot afford to bar-

But tell that to the Brazilians whose own regionalised system hasn't stopped them from remaining the most revered footballing nation in the world.

And let's face it, in the decade of NSL soccer we haven't stuck with any system long enough to establish our own 'traditional' methods of deciding anything from relegation to the amount of teams in the competition.

We are young enough to establish our own traditions.

Soccer must fall into line

The argument that by adopting this system we will fall out of step with the rest of the world is garbage.

The finals series is also exclusive to our rugby codes in Australia but it certainly hasn't hampered the Wallabies or Kangaroos as they've conquered the world for many years.

The publicity generated by a finals series is invaluable.

Advertisement

The colour, atmosphere and thrills of last year's dual-legged Sydney Olympic — Adelaide City national play-off were as good an advertisement for the game as any fatuous advertising jingle.

Most sports fans love a big event and it's no disrespect to SBS to say that some recent 'Match of the Day' telecasts watched by limited attendances hardly make for riveting viewing.

A packed-house at Olympic Park or Parramatta Stadium is another world again.

Under sunny Spring skies they make for TV sports spectacles which can only enhance soccer's name.

Crowds are another consideration and in that respect attendances at finals over the last three years have been impressive.

The figures speak for themselves.

In 1987 a Brunswick Juventus v South Melbourne Hellas fixture draws around 2,000 fans with just marginally more for a Hellas v Melbourne Croatia clash.

Again it comes back to stuff the traditionalists —

we need bums on seats and that's what the finals gave us.

In three seasons 83,000 people attended finals in Melbourne over the four weeks of each years-play-offs — an average of about 7,000 per game.

This was despite the likes of out-of-towners like Brisbane Lions and Adelaide City making up the numbers.

Figures for the old Northern Division were equally impressive with over 13,000 at the 1984 Grand Final and 11,000 last season.

The two-legged national play-off 1987 drew a total of 23,000 fans to two games full of entertainment and played in an intense cup-final atmosphere.

In a regular league season an Adelaide City against Sydney Olympic fixture would be lucky to pull 5,000 fans, if that.

In 1987, with the title all parcelled up, that figure might be even less.

Lamentations

The only real losers over the three past years of finals deciding the champions have been the coaches, and they'll have a whinge at any old time.

You rarely hear the coach of the champions complaining about the system but wait until twelve months later when his team is knocked out and he'll squeal like a stuck pig — so what's new!

With Apia running away with this year's title about nine other coaches and



1986 Finals fever — Olympic skipper PETER RASKOPOULOS holsts the Northern Division Trophy after victory over St George.

the supporters of their clubs would love the finals to be the decider.

As it is now all interest in the league is virtually over.

I hear the argument continually that winning a finals series doesn't decide the genuine champion team.

Yet I've still to meet the soccer follower who doesn't acknowledge each nation to have won the World Cup over the years as the best team of that era.

After all aren't the World Cup finals virtually a 'knock-out' competition?

Knock-out cup winners are always revered as fine sides so surely a finals system is just that little bit more testing and more deserving of the best teams.

It is the season's best teams playing off in front of big crowds under enormous pressure.

The best teams one-on-one and if you cannot win

in those conditions surely you don't deserve to be champions anyway.

Injuries can beat a team in the finals and haven't we heard the defeated coaches bleat about that in recent years.

But are injuries during the finals any different to those suffered by a team during the regular season?

Injuries that during the season might stop a team from winning the title anyway.

Those sort of vagaries are always part and parcel of the game.

The argument that the top team doesn't get recognition for its efforts under the finals system doesn't ring true either.

Just as the top side must win just twice to take the title in the finals the fifth team is justly penalised by having to win four straight games to finish as champions.

If the so-called top side is the genuine champion it should almost coast through to win with a week's rest and just two games to win.

Don't ask me though, ask the fans.

Feed them a regular diet of entertainment, and that's what the finals have provided in recent years, and they'll show their support by coming back for more.

I, for one, look forward to the 1988 season when we can anticipate the chase for the final five places, the build-up, the press speculation, the team selections and all the associated drama.

I've seen some of the my most memorable games in the showpiece finals of recent years and I look forward to seeing many more.

Thumbs up to the NSL executive.

‘The colour, atmosphere and thrills of last year’

gain with that in these testing days.

Sure, there'll be a finals type play-off this season but only long after the first-past-the-post title has been won and lost.

And, as was the situation in early National League years, all the interest will have waned and crowds will stay away in droves.

Now we can look forward to the finals as the pinnacle of the season with the best grounds, biggest crowds, best teams and all the colour and excitement only a finals series can bring.

Certainly the finals aren't a traditional method of deciding soccer's champion teams overseas, although they have often thrived in this country.

with all the other major Australian sporting competitions — if only to establish a rapport with the general public and those snarling sports editors who can only identify with the 'Aussie' way.

All the major codes, aussie rules, basketball, rugby league and union, grade cricket, field hockey, they all declare their champions after the grand final.

Colleague Les Shorrock often relates the story of one sports editor who complained that soccer changed its face so often that he no longer understood how the heck we decided our champions.

That's a fair indication of just how poorly thought of the code is in section of the media.

INTRUIGING INSIGHTS ON MacLEOD

LES SHORROCK gets behind the scenes in the final instalment of the Gus MacLeod story

GUS MacLEOD was brought out from Scotland by the then Gully coach, Bobby McLachlan, to lead Green Gully's attack, having heard of his fearsome reputation.

At the time MacLeod who had played in every division of Scottish football with Albion Rovers, St Mirren, Hamilton Academicals and Berwick Rangers, was regularly bursting the net with Junior side Pollok.

In fact he scored nearly a hundred goals in Junior ranks, his record still stands at Pollok, and he has the rare distinction of having been top goalscorer at every club he played for in Scotland.

In his first season for Green Gully, he was on target right from the start. He scored eight goals in his first eight games, the eighth being the Ampol Cup Final in which he scored the winner.

He ended season 1981 in which Gully won not only the title but the Dockerty Cup too, as top goalscorer in Victoria.

... and sidelights on Sekularac

He scored plenty of goals in the next season too, as the Greens won the League and Dockerty Cup double again, but Bobby McLachlan moved on, and Len McKendry arrived to take over the coaching.

"We never saw eye to eye," says MacLeod. "I could sense at training that I wasn't what he wanted, and he showed that with the Victorian squad. He had Charlie Egan and me sitting on the bench ... we'd scored 40 goals between us the previous season ... but he played Dave Brogan and Carl Gilder instead.

"So I moved on to Footscray and scored half a dozen goals in the National League, but the club was in a terrible mess, and I wasn't enjoying it, so I went on to Croydon.

"That was a bit of a mistake, but then I got the job coaching Fawkner. That was '84 and we didn't do badly either, finished third in the League and we won the Dockerty Cup. (I was getting rather fond of that Cup by then ... I'd seen enough of it!)

"But the next year it was the old story of committee interference again. There was nine on the committee and five of them wanted

their sons in the team. It was too much and I left, and my next coaching experience was when I went as assistant to Bobby McLachlan at Springvale.

Sekularac Days

"Whilst I was there, Footscray came along with an offer to be assistant manager to Drago Sekularac and I naturally jumped at it.

"There were two reasons why I went. It was National League for a start, and everybody wants to work at the highest level, if they have any ambition.

"Secondly, I wanted to learn from his methods. And I did learn too, because I thought some of his methods were brilliant.

"When I was a player at Footscray, the players were never fit enough, because training was sloppy and badly organised. But with Sekularac it was different.

"What he demanded fitness-wise was far above anything the players had ever experienced before, that was what kept them going at the top of the League for so long.

He believes in attack too, and he drummed into

his players the necessity to go forward whenever possible. If his system had a weakness, it was in defence, and I think that might be where the club has gone wrong this year.

"The Yugoslav boys respect Sekularac very highly. It's like my regard for Denis Law. I'd jump off the roof for Denis if he asked me to, and it's the same with the Yugoslav lads, where he is concerned.

"I was only there for six weeks, until Guy Spiteri (then President of Green Gully) came along and asked me to take over.

"I know some people at Footscray were upset when I left, but to me it was still part of the learning process and of course, there's a world of difference between being an assistant and being the boss.

"Green Gully was already doomed to relegation when I went there, but with nothing to lose we went out and attacked a few teams and got some good results too.

"It was a big challenge and I enjoyed it very much and of course we won that Dockerty Cup again, and with a relegated side this time, beating Preston in the final."

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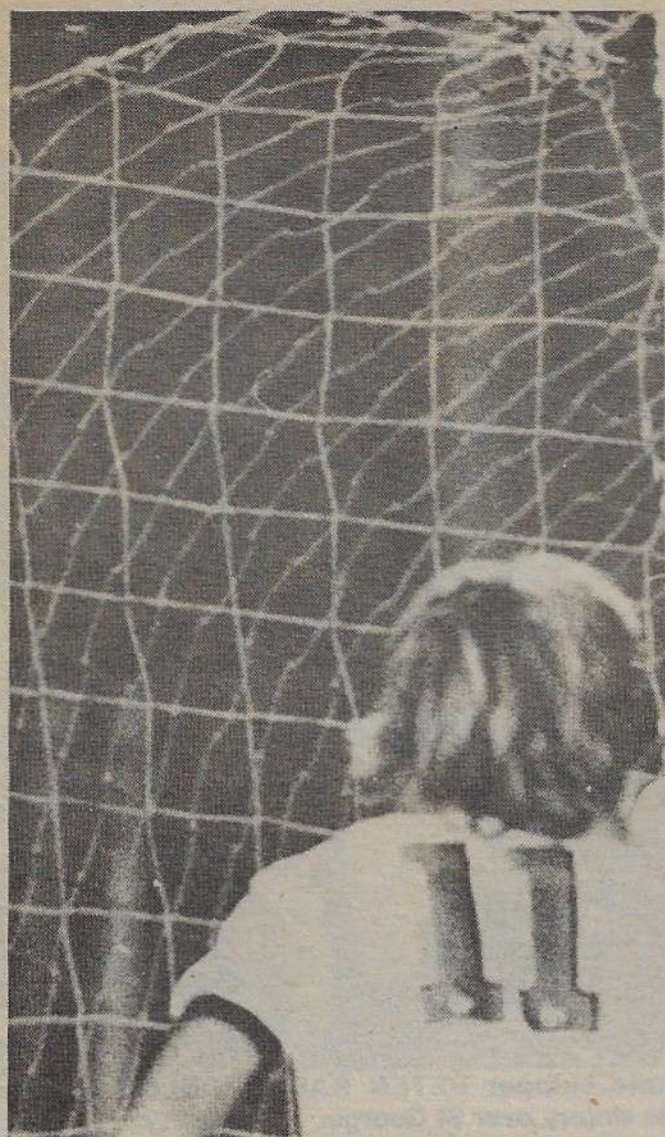
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AUSTRALIA 1 NEW ZEALAND 1

LES SHORROCK snapped this action in the New Zealand goal during the 1-1 draw with the Winfield Socceroos last Wednesday at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Australia players are Robbie Dunn (left) and Graham Arnold.

Rules need amendment

NSL DUPLICATION COULD OCCUR

BY TOM MCKAIN

IF the present play-off system for promotion to the West End National League is retained, Adelaide City or Adelaide Hellas, presuming the latter moves up next year, could have two teams in the NSL.

It would work this way, taking City as an example as it is already in the national competition.

Last year's champions played in the SA Second Division this year and won promotion to the Rothmans League State League.

If it wins the 1988 State League, it would be an automatic candidate for a play-off place for the NSL.

Presuming it was not due for relegation from the NSL, and it won the play-offs, then Adelaide City would have two teams in the West End National League.

Or it could work another way.

If City finished bottom of the NSL, and its State team won the State League then the play-offs, then City would be covered, and not relegated.

And it could guard against relegation, if it was in sight, by simply stacking its State League team with NSL players, as it did this year to make sure of winning the Second Division, and gaining a play-off place.

The same scenario can be worked with Hellas, if it makes the NSL for 1988.

And don't think it can't happen.

When Hellas was in the

NSL it had a team in the SA State League, and although it was not stacked, it finished in the top four with ease.

City and Hellas are planning a raid on clubs with local stars to give them powerful back-up squads for next year — Hellas is favorite to win the NSL qualifying play-offs — and either could easily win the SA State League.

The current rules lay down a play-off between State champions.

Will it be changed?

While City or Hellas

have the right to turn down a second place in the NSL by saying it does not want to play off, they would take up the option if their West End team was about to be relegated.

If they simply turned down a chance to play off then that would deny SA the chance of another NSL team as the current rules state that only champions can take part in the qualifiers, and not runners-up.

It's all fascinating and again highlights the loopholes in the rules.

Certainly some South Australian clubs are trying to stop City and Hellas playing NSL players in the First Division, or at least limiting them to two, provided they did not play in the NSL the previous round.

But the majority of clubs point out that a strong and winning City or Hellas draws fans to even away games, and the cash in exchange for defeat is worth it, as only two or three clubs outside the SA giants could afford to venture into the national competition.

OLYMPIC PRELIMS

THE Seoul Olympics Oceania region preliminary qualifying tournament will be held in Brisbane in November — providing the Queensland soccer Federation and the ASF can come to a financial agreement.

The tournament, from November 21-29, will involve the Socceroos, Papua New Guinea and Chinese Taipei which makes Brisbane the logical central venue for all three teams. But the QSF understandably is concerned about the difficulty of staging the event. The QSF management committee is conducting a thorough investigation into the summer event and is believed to have asked for financial assistance from the ASF to help offset losses.

The tournament will involve five matches. That includes two games between the Socceroos and Papua New Guinea, who for cost reasons have opted to play their home and away ties at the tournament. PNG also will play its matches against Chinese Taipei in Brisbane while the fifth game will be between Australia and Chinese Taipei. The sixth game of the round-robin, Chinese Taipei's home tie against the Socceroos will be played in Taiwan a week later.

The winning team of the tournament will go into the next stage of the Olympic qualifying rounds. It will be joined by Israel and the winner of matches between New Zealand and Western Samoa (Fiji were to be in this group but have withdrawn). The best loser of the two preliminary tournament (which almost certainly will mean a second team from the Brisbane event) will also advance to the second round. The second round four-team tournament will be staged in Australia (probably Sydney) and New Zealand next March.

While the Socceroos will be an attraction in Brisbane, and have not played there for four years, the QSF is still concerned that the tournament will face an uphill task in drawing crowds. Apart from being out-of-season, there has to be some doubts about how many would watch Australia v Papua New Guinea, and certainly, few will watch the ties between PNG and Chinese Taipei.

The details of what the QSF has asked the ASF have not been revealed. But it is understood QSF president Ian Brusasco is determined that the federation finish the year on a high — and that includes financially.

"We have had a very good season with Queensland having two great games against Fiji, a fine tour of New Zealand and a thrilling match against NSW. As a result of those successes our standing in Queensland sport has risen immeasurably. I would like us to finish the season on the same note," Brusasco said.



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THIS IS A GAME WHICH IS WELL WORTH BOTTLING!

By FRANK COLETTA

IF THE NSL ever needs to use a game as an advertisement for the competition, then the Marconi-Sydney Olympic 1-all draw should be 'bottled up' and displayed at any opportune time.

As one pleased supporter was heard to comment after the final whistle, "this was a game of football."

This customer was certainly not alone in this summation. The other 5000 odd at the crowd enjoyed every minute, which left both sides breathless at the final whistle.

Bossley Park played host to 90 minutes of end-to-end stuff and some furious goalmouth action.

Despite the fact that Marconi had the majority

of goalscoring chances, it was Olympic who hit the front after just four minutes through converted midfielder Tony Dakos.

A suicidal square pass from skipper Tony Henderson across his own area saw the ball elude the sliding Paul Carter and fall kindly for Dakos.

The strapping number four charged ahead, shrugging off a desperate challenge from Robbie Wheatley to squeeze the ball beyond Bob Catlin, the Marconi keeper, struggling to get back into

position after the defensive lapse.

But the Fairfielders bounced straight back and were on level terms at the 10 minute mark when they countered with an amazing speed from an Olympic attack where Vicente Estavillo had a volley blocked by Catlin.

His clearance found Gerry Gomez lurking on the right wing. Farina took off after the subsequent pass that cleared Robbie Hooker's head and raced away from him to poke the ball past the oncoming Gary Meier.

Just as Peter Raskopoulos was being carted off after collecting a cut shin in a clash with Gomez (which later required three stitches) Marconi went excruciatingly close to hitting the front.

It was Gomez creating havoc after Steve Calderan had flicked on a long throw from Ian Gray. Meier scrambled as did Hantzis as Gomez seemed to have planted the ball over the line for all money.

Referee Chris Bambridge waved play on and there was no reaction from the Marconi players.

If it was possible the pace seemed to quicken as the half-time break neared. With but 10 minutes remaining Catlin gave the ball away to Gary Phillips on the edge of the box and by-line. His cross was volleyed over by Terry Patalis.

Then Estavillo wandered into space some 20 metres from goal and sent a drop volley at Catlin whose reactions were equal to the task.

Further chances then fell to Gomez, John Kosmina, who came on as a replacement for Raskopoulos, Steve Maxwell and Farina.

Marconi began the second term as they had completed the first 45 minutes, with all guns blazing.

After just five minutes of the resumption Farina launched himself at a fierce Gomez cross to head inches wide of the near post.

Gomez was becoming increasingly involved and a jinking run on the hour ended with a flashing left foot drive that Meier touched over.

Marconi's form player of the past month, Geoff Gunning, was brought on after 65 minutes and his first touch and subsequent run proved a gem.

The tearaway forward collected the ball inside his own half and set off on a 40 metre run. His final pass matched the exciting run as he set Farina into the clear inside the area. The finish from the Socceroo striker brushed the upright and the home side were left to rue yet another close call.

The other substitute David Lowe became



Olympic's Vicente Estavillo shows off his skills, closely watched by Marconi's Craig Mason (left) and Tommy McCulloch (right). Photo by MODERN STUDIO.

quickly involved and with nine minutes remaining might have grabbed the equaliser.

A long and swirling cross from left-back Paul Carter landed at the little man's feet just inside the area. His stab volley bobbed wide of the far post.

Time enough for the war-horses Henderson and Kosmina to come close and a frenetic 90 minutes was brought to an end at 1-1.

Roberto Vieri claimed later: "It's the same old tune every week. We have the chances but just can't put the ball into the net."

"I put Robbie Wheatley into midfield to control Estavillo and he did an excellent job."

Eddie Thomson, Olympic's coach said: "The draw was a pretty fair result. It was without doubt a good game to watch

and both sides could have grabbed both points, but I thought we did quite well."

MARCONI: Catlin, Carter, Wheatley, Henderson, Calderan, Gomez (Lowe 78), Mason (Gunning 65), Gray, McCulloch, Farina, Maxwell.

OLYMPIC: Meier, Hooker, Coady, Ratcliffe, Hantzis, Dakos (Johnstone 81), Raskopoulos (Kosmina 30), Estavillo, Phillips, Sand, Patalis.

CROWD: 5131.
Referee: C. Bambridge (Melb)
Bookings: Gomez and McCulloch (Marc), Dakos (Olympic).

IT WAS A DAY TO FORGET

By GREG BLAKE

A DAY of potential high drama began dismally and ended in controversy as Brunswick Juventus and Sydney Croatia shared the spoils in the first game of last Sunday's Olympic Park double header.

It was a forgettable day for officials as only three thousand fans turned out for the two games.

And it was a rather forgettable first game as Juventus slugged it out to finish 0-0 against Croatia.

Only a spate of incidents in the final 20 minutes brought the crowd to life and most of these were best forgotten.

Juventus speedster Andrew Zinni came closest to breaking the deadlock with a spectacular left-footer which rocked the crossbar.

With seven minutes left Juventus powerhouse Scott Patterson, on the field only 20 minutes as a substitute, was sent off by referee Don Campbell for a shoulder charge on Croatia's Ray Vlietstra.

"I was very disappointed — and very surprised," a bemused Patterson said.

"Brian Brown cleared a ball out of the box, I chested it down and started to move upfield and just put the ball too far in front of myself.

"It developed into a 50-50 situation with Vlietstra and I just went in for the ball and I suppose we just hit."

"I didn't think there was much in it but the referee came up with a red card and I thought he'd pulled out the wrong card at first."

Whilst they weren't celebrating in the visitors room there was satisfaction expressed at having gained the point they'd come for.

Juventus, too, would have been happy with the result after a flu bug had played havoc with team selection.

Juventus could have led 10 minutes from half-time when Mehmet Durakovic had a booming shot turned wide by Greg Woodhouse and Graham Arnold should have done better for Croatia just after the break with a shot he sliced inches over the bar.

BRUNSWICK: Marama, Lewis, Incantalupo, Durakovic, Zennadoorn, Brown, Cullen (Patterson 62nd), (Patterson sent off 82nd), Grbac, Palatsidis, Zinni, McGrellis.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Woodhouse, Jennings, Vlietstra, Rozic (Cerro 73rd), Savor, Rezo, Odzakovic, Clinch, Slater, Arnold, Lamond.

Referee: D Campbell.
Att: 3,000.
ends

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WEST END NAT. LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 APIA-L'Hardt	20	11	9	-	31	15	31
2 Marconi	20	9	4	7	32	22	22
3 Melb Croatia	20	9	4	7	21	23	22
4 Syd Croatia	19	8	5	6	27	18	21
5 Preston	19	7	7	5	22	19	21
6 St Melbourne	19	8	5	6	27	25	21
7 Sydney Olympic	19	7	7	5	24	22	21
8 St George	19	8	4	7	23	22	20
9 Adelaide	19	8	3	8	15	17	19
10 Adelaide City	19	5	8	7	26	20	18
11 Footscray	19	6	5	8	13	23	17
12 Heidelberg	20	3	5	12	22	38	11
13 Sunshine	19	1	6	12	18	37	8

WEST END NAT. LEAGUE RESULTS

BRUNSWICK 0 drew with SYDNEY CROATIA 0 at Olympic Park. Crowd: 3000 (double-header).

MARCONI 1 (F Farina) drew with SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (T Dakos) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 5131

APIA-L'HARDT 3 (R Brown 2, P Tredinnick) SUNSHINE 1 (J Faulkner) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1529.

PRESTON 1 (S Smith) HEIDELBERG 0 at Heidelberg. Crowd: 3000.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (P Wade 2) ADELAIDE CITY 0 at Olympic Sports Field. Crowd: 2800.

FOOTSCRAY 0 drew with MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 at Olympic Park. Crowd: 3000. (double-header).

WEST END N.L. TOPSCORERS

ROD BROWN APIA-Leichhardt	14
FRANK FARINA Marconi	11
ROBBIE SLATER Sydney Croatia	9
PAUL LEWIS Melbourne Croatia	9
JOE MULLEN Adelaide City	8
STEVE SMITH Preston	8
GRAHAM ARNOLD Sydney Croatia	7
RON CAMPBELL Preston	7
LAWRIE MCKINNA Heidelberg	7
CHARLIE VILLANI Adelaide City	7
PAUL WADE South Melbourne	7
IAN WALLACE Melbourne Croatia	6
PETER TSOLAKIS Heidelberg	6
STUART STEVENSON South Melb.	6
JOHN KOSMINA Sydney Olympic	5
SCOTT OLLERENSHAW St George	5
STEVE MAXWELL Marconi	5
GARY WARD APIA-Leichhardt	5
JOHN MARKOVSKI Sunshine	5
ZARKO ODZAKOV Syd Croatia	5

APIA! APIA! APIA!

By JOHN ECONOMOS

APIA, by crushing Sunshine George Cross 3-1 in a stylish, methodical manner at Lambert Park, wrapped up the 1987 NSL championship despite the fact that four full rounds of the League remain to be played.

Apia have four games to go and need only to get another point to ensure the championship is theirs.

Four goals and two red cards highlighted this match.

Apia's powerful centre-back, Charlie Yankos and Sunshine's 66th minute substitute, Gary Clarke, were both dismissed by Victorian referee, Dennis Voutsianis just 12 minutes from "stumps".

Yankos' dismissal was a great miscarriage of justice.

Players from both teams zeroed in over Yankos' felled body, swinging punches left and right.

The violent play committed on Yankos was the worst seen in NSL football this season.

After the match Apia's characteristically ultra-conservative, eventually accepted that Apia has now won the League.

"It really hasn't hit me yet as I'm just taking it all in. It has been 10 long years for me and this championship tastes even sweeter since we were written off as possi-

ble champions earlier this season," big Arno confessed.

This victory sustained Apia's reel of undefeated matches, their 21st this season.

The League's top goalscorer, Apia's red-haired central striker, Rod Brown, scored twice to lift his personal tally now to 14 in the NSL.

Man-Of-the-match (yet again) was Apia's left linkman, Peter Tredinnick who earns his living as a solicitor.

"Treds" prosecuted Sunshine continually with his fabulous and customary high work-rate, capping a wonderful performance by opening the "innings" for Apia with a flashing 12 metre header in the third minute following an excellent cross from the right by striker, Hilton Phillips.

Brown nailed in Apia's second in the 28th following solid lead-up work by Peter Katholos and Gary Ward.

George Cross hit back in the 71st when a shot from midfielder Jeff Faulkner struck Bertogna's boot and flew over goalkeeper Tony Pezza-

no and just under the cross bar.

Apia's third and final goal came when Tredinnick knock wide to the right flank to find Brown. Brown rounded his defender before blasting into the far corner.

Tredinnick stated after the match: "We have worked hard all year for this and through perseverance we have been rewarded. Nobody can say we fluked the championship."

Jubilant Apia coach, Rale Rasic commented: "This match was an important occasion for us as it was the final nail driven into winning the League."

Best for Apia were Tredinnick, Rod Brown, Terry Butler and Hilton Phillips, whilst Sunshine's best servants were John Markovski, Sean Keogh and Robbie Markovac.

APIA: Pezzano: Bertogna, Yankos, de Marigny: Butler, Lorens, Katholos, Tredinnick: Phillips, Brown, Ward.

SUNSHINE: Keogh: Innes, Martin, Richardson (Gilder 78th), Campbell: Mitten, McLaren (Clarke 66th), Faulkner, Markovski: Markovac, Trimboli.

Referee: D. Voutsianis.
Crowd: 1,529.
Red Cards: Yankos and Clarke 78th.

Adcity are on the way down the ladder

By TOM McKAIN

"THEY met us at our lowest. We couldn't get any worse." Those were the comments of coach Zoran Matić after Adelaide City were beaten 2-0 at home by South Melbourne who charged up to sixth place on the league table.

The defeat sent last year's champions down the ladder into 10th spot.

They have gained only one point from their last four games.

It was a tactical triumph for South coach Brian Garvey.

"We were patient with our build-ups and passing and it paid off," he said.

"Once we got two goals up we were in the driving seat and the players were well organised and disciplined."

South beat City at their own game — playing wide waiting for the breaks, and cutting out City's sprayed passes, plus playmaker midfielder Adrian Santrac.

Paul Wade was given this job and not only smothered the City star but had time to make plays himself and score the two goals.

The first was in the 17th minute when he shot then collected the rebound off home goalkeeper Willie McNally to sink the ball into the net.

The next goal was a header in the 31st minute from a Richard Miranda right-cross and it looked all over.

But City sent on striker Lenny Vatsilas in the 51st minute for right-back Alex Tobin and moved midfielder Sergio Melta to the defensive position.

The switch worked for 15 minutes as City made a comeback with Melta operating down the right side and Collin Miller the left, but South stood firm.

Stuart Stevenson and Danny Wright also gave the home defence a roasting and in the set plays big Steve Blair just shaved the bar with three headers.

Their run is coming late and South will be outsiders to win the title, but on this showing they are certain to be contenders for the West End Top Five Series.

City have a bye this weekend and will go through the agony of watching their challengers progress up or down the ladder.

They are still in with a slight hope of making the five but kissed any chance they had of retaining the title goodbye in this game against the Victorians.

ADELAIDE CITY: McNally, Tobin (51st minute), Vatsilas, Shillabeer, Nyekohus, Miller Villani, Vidmar, Melta, Santrac Mullen, Wilde.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Glatas, Russell, Blair, Wade, McDowall, Halford, Crainie, Miranda, Anezakis, Stevenson, Wright.

Referee: R Lorenc (NSW). Crowd: 2310. Bookings: McDowall and Stevenson, both South Melbourne.



DAVID REZO of Sydney Croatia tries an overhead kick while a faceless Brunswick Juventus defender shields himself. Robbie Cullen (no.7) looks on. Pic — Les Shorrock.

FOOTSCRAY IMPROVE SITUATION

BY TOM PETERS

FOOTSCRAY distanced themselves further from the relegation zone, following their 0-0 draw against Melbourne Croatia at Olympic park.

It was a boring affair which offered spectators very little to enthuse about.

And yet there were enough quality players on the park to have provided much, much more.

The only real highlights of the game arose in the

second half, with Footscray defender Eddie Campbell being sent off and midfielder Vlatko Bozinowski missing a penalty.

The tight marking plans adopted by both coaches pre-determined the quality of the spectacle.

The cries of the crowd failed to influence the coaches and the game developed into the most boring affair.

Footscray lost defender Eddie Campbell after 74 minutes, following an argument with referee Gary Power.

Campbell had being cautioned earlier but failed to control his emotion during his second encounter with Power.

The second highlight of the game arrived ten minutes before full time.

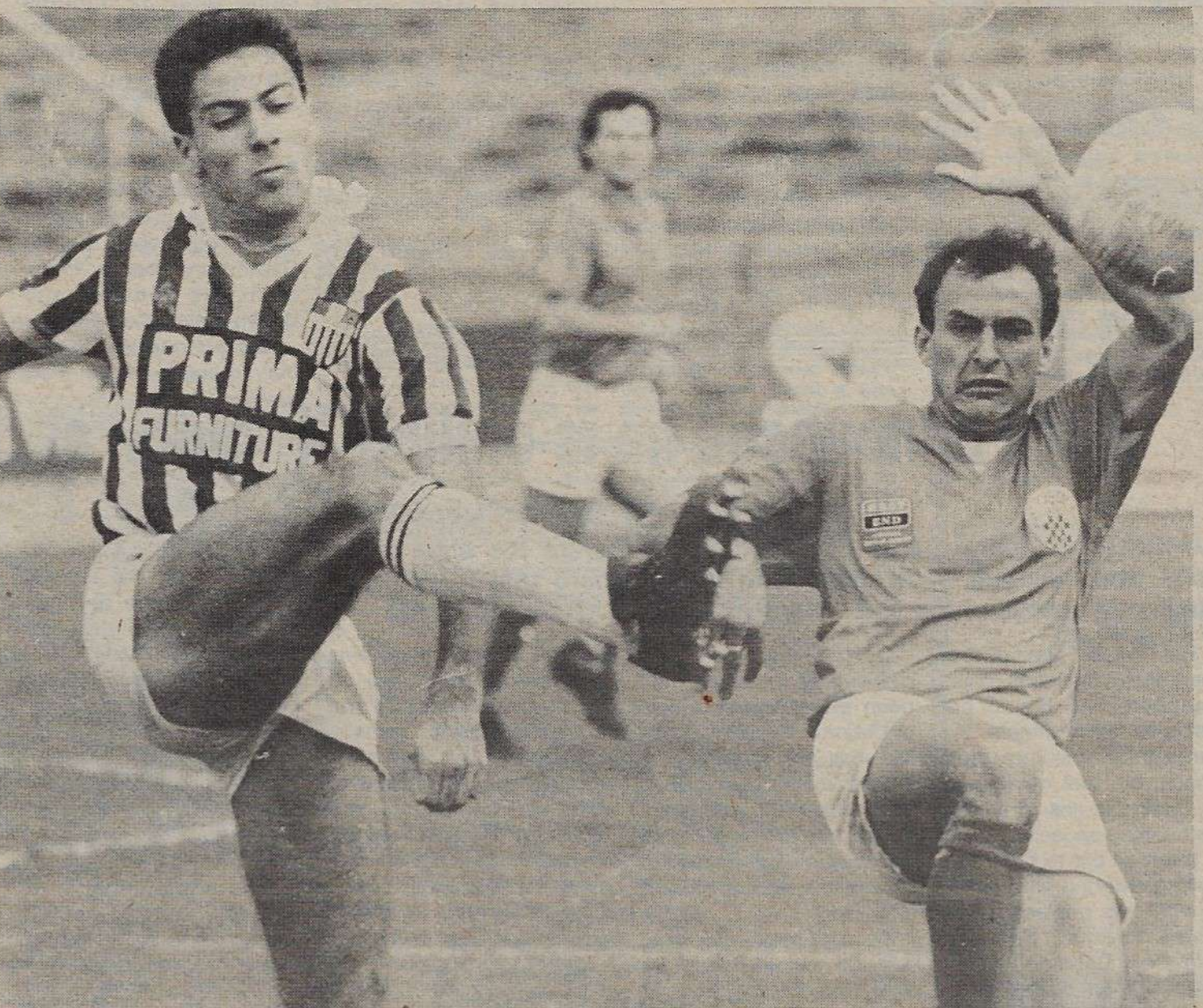
George Hannah handled the ball inside his area

and the referee pointed to the penalty spot.

Bozinowski took the kick and solid young keeper Mirko Runje stretched to his left to deflect the shot to safety, much to the joy of his team-mates.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runje, Davidson, McIntosh (Heys 61), Dunn, Hannah, Milosevic, Blakic, Scott (Herd 61), Wallace, P. Lewis, Dobson.

FOOTSCRAY: Nikitovic, James, Campbell, Dimitrijevic, Deankovic, Van Egmond, Tapal, Murphy, Bozinowski, Crino, Spink. Referee: G. Power. Crowd: 3000 (double-header).



Brunswick Juventus striker ANDREW ZINNI beats Sydney Croatia's WALLY SAVOR to the punch, more to the point — the kick. Photo Les Shorrock.

PRESTON TOO TIGHT FOR HEIDELBERG

BY PETER GEORGIU

PRESTON's plan for a point at Olympic Village, with tight and often rough marking, worked well not only for one but two points.

Heidelberg Alexander found it too hard to break the solid defence and tight marking, insisting on driving its offense through the pack instead of using Anastasiadis and Tsolakis up the wings.

In the case of John Anastasiadis, particularly, the defenders and midfielders insisted on ignoring the speed and ball control the young international and that persistence has proved too costly game after game.

One wonders if they class the youngster as a team-mate or an opponent.

Only when Tsolakis and Anastasiadis were utilised properly the team came close to scoring.

Because of these wrong tactics Preston's plan was working well and when Steve Smith, on the 20th minute, found himself unmarked, he moved in and lobbed the ball home past Olver who, exposed by his defenders, came out to block unsuccessfully.

The home side, still finding the marking too tight, managed to get close to Trianides but Deeley's header from close range went to the keeper's arms.

In the 37th minute Anastasiadis came close to equalising with a hard volley, sending the ball a couple of inches over the cross bar.

Just after Kanesoulis replaced the injured Anastasiadis in the 65th minute, referee Terry Seacy a minute later showed Preston's scorer Smith the way to the showers on a charge of foul play twice against Theo Selemidis.

Despite this numerical advantage Heidelberg Alexander, still playing under pressure from the fear of relegation, launched an all out attack but again had to try to find its way through the tight and more determined and often rough man-to-man marking by Preston.

It managed whoever to get close when the players started spreading the game a bit and when Tsolakis set up McKinna for goal, with a clever pass on the 67th, Trianides was lucky to be in place to receive the ball in his arms

from the hard header by the Heidelberg striker.

It wasn't one way however, as Preston's Tasevsky forced Soccer-o keeper Jeff Olver to a double clearance and they could have scored again in the last quarter when Bill Piculovski preferred to shoot wide while a team-mate was standing alone in front of the open goal-mouth.

Heidelberg bounced back and it was only Trianides' brilliant save that prevented the ball going into his net after a hard shot from point blank range by Andy Deeley, on the 78th minute, thus giving Preston the two points and dampening the home side's attempts to avoid relegation.



PETER TSOLAKIS

A sigh of relief whoever was heard from the supporters of Heidelberg, after the final whistle, as the loudspeakers announcing the final score from Sydney: "APIA 3 - George Cross 1", but the battle to avoid relegation is not over yet.

Best players in this tough encounter were, Marley, Luchessi, Olver and Kanesoulis, from Heidelberg Alexander and Trianides, Jackson and Campbell from Preston.

Referee Seacy performed excellently, having total control of the players and the game.

HEIDELBERG: Olver, Marley, Katsakidis, Hunter, Selemidis, Frazer, Luchessi, Tsolakis, Anastasiadis (Kanesoulis 65m), Deeley, McKinna.

PRESTON: Trianides, Jackson, Ilioski, Piculovski, McLennan, Campbell, Dimovski, Stewart, (Smith 66m), Gojevic (Tasevski 70m), Petrov.

Referee: T. Seacy. Crowd: 3000.

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ALEX VESIC
reviews the
NSW State
Bank League

TOP GOAL NO HELP

SCOTT GRESHAM scored one of the best goals this year at Adamstown last Sunday but could not prevent Newcastle going down to Rockdale Ilinden 3-1.

It was fast and entertaining for most of this match as both sides threw caution to the wind.

Rockdale Ilinden, beaten at Wollongong midweek, showed vastly different form against Newcastle and led 2-0 after the first half hour with both goals coming from Patrick Rodas.

Tony Genovese sped down the left flank in the 31st before cutting his cross to the near post for the ever alert Rodas, who headed home.

Newcastle came back at the start of the second half and showed enough fire but could not stop this vastly experienced outfit from Rockdale.

After 54 minutes the game was all but over after Louis Dounis broke into the area only to be tripped by Milosevic. Zlatko Markovski made no mistake from the penalty to put the issue beyond doubt.

Then came the best goal of the match. Gresham received the ball inside the centre circle then raced forward beating two players on the run before slamming in a 20 metre drive which beat Zic all ends up.

It was a pleasant finish to a successful season for the young Newcastle side as well as for this vastly under rated Rockdale team.

NEWCASTLE: Carter, Milosevic, Bowen, M. Drysdale, Rowney, Gresham, Bland, McGulness, Cavanah (46th Harrison), N. Drysdale, Calsley (78th Tageroullas).

ROCKDALE: Zic, Boogaard, Mitrevski, Plovski, J. Wilson, Terevski, D. Wilson, Rodas, Genovese, Dounis, Markovski.

IT'S THE WOLVES FOR THE LEAGUE

WOLLONGONG CITY thumped Manly Warringah at the Wollongong Showground to earn a return to the NSL for the 1988 season.

Two players picked up hat-tricks as the Wolves ran rampant yet again in front of a 2,000 strong crowd. However, Easthorpe and Giraldi, the hat-trick chumps left their run a trifle too late to be able to catch the runaway leader in goal scoring honours Alan Reis of Canberra Griffins.

But I am sure that neither player will be worried about missing the top scoring honours with the chance of playing in the National League next year.

Congratulations to John Fleming and to Wollongong City for this wonderful result. Fleming, the coach who guided another team from the South Coast a couple of seasons ago to within a whisker of an unprecedented first up League title came up trumps on this occasion.

And his effort was no fluke.

Hampered by some inconsistent results at the start, then a loss of a job towards the end of the

season he never wilted. His enthusiasm and belief in the final outcome carried his side to victory and nobody could take it away from him.

Blacktown City, in the hunt until the final round, lost to its arch rival from Canberra for the second time this season and must take credit of its staff for the 1988 season.



JOHN FLEMING

Les Scheinflug, an astute coach and a disciplinarian, was bitterly disappointed at his team's showing but will have to reassess some of his players during State

League play-offs.

Canberra Griffins showed its true colours at the Gabbie last Sunday and must be well pleased with its showing despite missing the League title.

Melita Eagles subdued Ku-Ring-Gai and Canterbury in the space of 48 hours with a side that included a number of their promising juniors.

The sign of things to come?

Only time will tell.

Rockdale Ilinden is still with a chance of snatching fifth spot on the League ladder but a far cry from the plans that Ilija Takac had for the red and black outfit.

Uruguayan Penrith stumbled in the last round

to finish on par with Sutherland Shire and both clubs must be well pleased with its 1987 showing.

As for the rest, Freshwater inconsistent with the best showing in a fund raising match against the NSL giant Marconi winning 4-0. Its coach Ljubo Gojkovic is set to join the coaching staff at Red Star in Yugoslavia for a 10 week stint.

Newcastle is more than satisfied with its position after losing the entire team in the off season, while Inter Monaro and Ku-Ring-Gai did not have the strength to do much

better than their position indicates.

Who will drop into the second division next year?

Manly is at present at the foot of the ladder on 15 points but has a game against Inter Monaro yet. Should Manly win then

Canterbury and Wollongong Macedonia will play off to decide who will be relegated.

Should Manly draw against Inter then there will be a three way play-off and should Manly stumble against the Queanbeyan side then Manly will go down.

Fleming steers City to title

MELITA WIN AS TWO GO OFF

CHRIS HUMMELL, the brilliant Canterbury 'keeper, was sent off at Melita Stadium last Sunday following an incident which involved Ean Rodrigues of Melita. The locals won the match 4-1 but not before Drago Zulj, another Canterbury player, was given his marching orders.

It hardly helped the relegation-threatened Canterbury. The side will now have to sweat it out while Manly battles it out with Inter Monaro in a postponed match this week.

Greg Brown, the man who was brought to Melita Eagles at the start of the season to score goals, found the net twice to help his side to victory.

For Brown this must have been a relief. He found the net twice in the last 12 outings and one of them was from the penalty spot. During the same period he must have hit the woodwork at least half a dozen times.

His two goals against Canterbury lifted his tally to 11 for the season and it made him Melita's top scorer for 1987. He also scored two goals in the pre-season Cup.

His first yesterday came after 32 minutes and followed a good move which involved Cabassi, Vial and Sertbas.

Eight minutes into the second period Rodrigues broke through to round Hummell only to be pulled down from behind by the Canterbury keeper. Hummell was sent off and Brown netted the penalty.

Lucky Konistis, Canterbury reserve keeper was

in goal for the remainder of the match. He replaced Vardarakis but could do little to stop this speedy Melita attack.

Five minutes later was in the thick of things. His well placed free-kick found Wayne Fransworth who crossed for Callanan and the tall midfielder slammed an unstoppable 18 metre drive.

With 18 minutes to go Birol Sertbas outpaced the Canterbury defence to find Rodrigues and the wily midfielder made no mistake.

In the closing stages Melita eased the pressure and allowed Canterbury to get back into the match with Zlatko Arambasic scoring in the 80th minute from a John Radman pass.

In fairness to the home side one must take note that a number of chances went begging early in the piece.

Farnsworth in the 10th, Rodrigues in the 13th, Brown in the 18th and 26th had ample time and space to hit the net.

MELITA EAGLES: Gosling, Cabassi, Williams, Buchanan, Robertson, Sertbas, Rodrigues (73rd Rago), Vial, Brown (73rd Smith), Callanan, Farnsworth.

CANTERBURY: Hummell (sent off 53rd), Zulj (sent off 89th), George (51st Borges), Rago, Vardarakis (54th Konistis), Radman, Marinos, Mickovski, Arambasic, Kalogeras, Perdomo.

SHIRE'S GOOD END TO COMP

SUTHERLAND Shire ended the season on a winning note after Brett Nelson scored the only goal of the match at Seymour Shaw Park after 62 minutes of an exciting and entertaining match.

A free kick by Steve Meades was flicked on by Tony Caban and Nelson chimed in to scramble the ball over the line.

The goal by Nelson ended a six game winning run by Uruguayan Penrith and Raul Blanco showed his displeasure at the end of this match. He was fuming over the inability of his players to score from the chances provided.

John McKie, with nine goals to his name for the season, had an opportunity to increase his tally to 11 but missed a couple of easy openings and with it the chance to give his side victory.

The home team had its own chances with Daryl Sharpe missing a couple and Greg Lerond making

the breaks which could have resulted in goals also.

An exciting encounter saw Sutherland hold out Uruguayan in the closing stages of the game and deservedly take the points. The Shaks were fractionally the better side.

The locals adapted to the conditions better than their skillful opponent and showed aggression that was lacking in the last few games.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE: Burchmore, R. O'Shea, Ball, Selier, Nelson, J. O'Shea, Meades, Parsons, Lerond, Sharpe, Caban.

URUGUAYAN PENRITH: Hoare, O'Donnell, Thompson, Krslovic, Gonzales, Arcossa, Hunter, Bradley, Benitez, Genc, McKie.

STATE LEAGUE DIV 1 GR 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wollongong City.....	26	20	2	4	61	30	42
Canberra Griffins.....	26	18	4	4	63	19	40
Blacktown City.....	26	19	1	6	60	19	39
Melita Eagles.....	26	16	5	5	54	30	37
Uruguayan.....	26	11	4	11	45	41	26
Sutherland Shire.....	26	9	8	9	31	35	26
Rockdale Ilinden.....	24	10	3	11	36	30	23
W.Freshwater.....	25	9	2	14	26	34	20
Inter Monaro.....	24	7	6	11	43	54	20
Ku-Ring-Gai.....	26	7	5	14	29	40	19
Newcastle.....	26	8	3	15	35	48	19
W'gong Mace.....	26	5	6	15	23	44	16
Canterbury.....	26	5	6	15	26	64	16
Manly W'gah.....	25	6	3	16	18	52	15

Wednesday, Sept.2

WOLLONGONG MACE 2 (Brown 2) **ROCKDALE ILINDEN 0.**

Friday, Sept. 5

MELITA EAGLES 3 (Vial, Callanan, Rodrigues) **KU-RING-GAI 0.**

Saturday, Sept. 6.

CANTERBURY 2 (Arambasic 2) **MANLY 1** (Etherington).
NEWCASTLE 1 (Gresham) **ROCKDALE 3** (Rodas 2, Dounis).

Sunday, Sept. 7.

WOLLONGONG CITY 6 (Easthorpe 3, Giraldi 3) **MANLY 0.**
BLACKTOWN CITY 0 **CANBERRA GRIFFINS 2** (Bryant pen, Sermani).
INTER MONARO 1 (Perinovic) **KU-RING-GAI 0.**
MELITA EAGLES 4 (Brown 2, Callanan, Rodrigues) **CANTERBURY 1** (Arambasic).
WOLLONGONG MACE 2 (Popovski, Kirwan pen) **FRESHWATER 1** (Cleary).
SUTHERLAND 1 (Nelson) **PENRITH 0.**

Ford announces he is calling it quits at Ku-ring-gai

By **GRAHAM COOKE**

KU-RING-GAI coach Denis Ford announced before the start of the NSW State League Bank game with Inter Monaro that it would be his last in charge of the club.

He told the players that increasing business commitments had led to his decision to terminate his three-year term as club coach, but that he wished to retain his link in a less demanding capacity.

It turned out to be a sad ending. Ku-ring-gai lost 1-0 with two players, Mike Berry after 22 minutes and Don Campbell three minutes from the end, receiving their marching orders from referee Bob Marshall.

Berry's dismissal was particularly futile. He had been pulled up for a foul on Marko Perinovic and Marshall was prepared to let the matter rest with a free kick until persistent abuse led to the Ku-ring-gai captain being issued with first a caution then a red card.

To that point Ku-ring-gai had looked the better side and came close to taking the lead when David Kevern headed just over.

With 10 men there was a greater emphasis on holding a point and the best efforts of the remainder of the first half both came from Monaro. Defenders Joe Gagetti and Gabriel Domazetovich forced goalkeeper Andrew Lacey to concede corners in quick succession.

Perinovic hooked wide as Lacey could not hold a Baz Giampaolo shot but the tough striker made up for the miss in the 86th

minute when, put through by Giampaolo, he blasted the ball into the net with the Ku-ring-gai defence appealing for offside.

A minute later Campbell was back in the dressingroom for a foul on Glenn Ambrosino, then Angelo Jeffery could've saved the point when he sliced wide at close range.

"It's sometimes difficult to play against 10 men, especially when they are as aggressive as Ku-ring-gai," Monaro coach Vic Fernandez said afterwards.

"In the first half we

found it hard to penetrate. I brought on Andrew Monterosso to try and increase our striking power in the second, but then it was difficult. It was good to see the ball in the back of the net.

"I hope the supporters are satisfied with what we have achieved — and I believe we can build on it next season."

INTER MONARO: Notaris, Domazetovich, Gagetti, Arthur, Titilas, Ambrosino, Colbaltado, Panebianco (Monterosso 46th), Perinovic, Fernandez, Giampaolo.

KU-RING-GAI: Lacey, Kevern, Goldsworthy, Bennett Campbell (sent off 87th), Sutherland, Pepper, Berry (sent off 22nd), Jeffery, Bass, Nile.

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DOUBLE PAVES WAY

ZLATKO ARAMBASIC scored two late goals to pave the way for Canterbury Marrickville to defeat Manly Warringah 2-1 at Parklea last Saturday afternoon.

Manly looked set to escape relegation after scoring an early goal through Ross Etherington then proceeded to control play for most of the first half.

When Rene Licata left the field after only 17 minutes for Canterbury the task became even greater for his side to make any inroads.

Stuart had another opening after 25 minutes when a poor clearance by Radman went straight to a Manly player. However his shot was easy picking for Hummell.

Then came the incident

MELITA BABES

DENNIS HOGGART decided to change his line-up for the postponed game against Ku-Ring-Gai and it worked miracles as the young "Babes" swamped their rivals 3-0 at Melita Stadium.

With two 16-year-olds in attack and the side averaging just 19 it was more like an Under 19 side playing this experienced side from Sydney's north.

However, apart from an early period when Ku-Ring-Gai managed to hold the locals to an even game, it was all Melita.

Don Campbell hit the crossbar with his header after a Berry free kick in the 12th, then Mark Nile faced Gosling in the 18th after a good through ball. Yet again the crossbar got in the way and Ku-Ring-Gai instead of two goals up was one down!

A Lenny Vial 20 metre shot in the 18th minute took a nasty deflection sending Lacey the wrong way for Melita's opening goal.

And while this goal had an element of luck written over it the story of the second period was vastly different.

The youngsters of Melita were in command for most of this 45 minutes scoring further goals in the 54th through Andrew Callanan and in the 57th through Ean Rodrigues.

An encouraging sign for Hoggart and his Melita side was the poise and purpose shown by young Rago and his attacking partner Ortiz, while Buchanan, Williamson, Cabassi and Saccialotto

could quite easily hold those positions for Melita next year.

Rodrigues, Vial, Callanan and Sertbas would have to be one of the youngest manoueuvering lines in the League and with Anthony Wellbourn yet to come into the side one would safely assume that the Eaglettes are a force to be reckoned with.

MELITA EAGLES: Gosling, Cabassi, Williamson, Buchanan, Saccialotto, Sertbas, Rodrigues, Vial, Callanan, Rago (70th Brown), Ortiz (70th Farnsworth).

KU-RING-GAI: Lacey, Kevern, Goldsworthy, Campbell, Sutherland, Bass, Bennett, Quigley (Bourke 39), Berry, Jeffery, Nile.

which changed the pattern of this match.

Nick Conradi was injured following a challenge for the ball and he was replaced by third string 'keeper Beckitt.

Conradi's replacement was out of his depth and made numerous errors, allowing Canterbury to come back into the game while Manly went into defence.

Ten minutes into the second half it was 1-1. Steven Marinos went to the by-line then centred for Zlatko Arambasic who nodded past the bewildered keeper.

With 18 minutes to go Mark Cimarosti faced Hummell and looked set to give Manly the decisive goal. Alas, Hummell was at it again deflecting the shot for a corner.

Then with minutes ticking away Arambasic forced his way into the penalty area to beat Beckitt and win the game for Canterbury.

CANTERBURY: Hummell, Eftimiades, George, Vadarakis, Radman, Zull, Perdomo, Mickovski, Arambasic, Kalogeras, Licata (17th Marinos).

MANLY: Conradi (Beckitt 28th), Dennis, Sestanovich, Pierce, Stuart, Williamson, Juergens, Carrick, Cimarosti, Etherington, Ferguson.

LIGHTNING STRIKES AGAIN

CANBERRA Griffins will play in the major semi-final following its 2-0 win over Blacktown at the Gabbie Stadium last Sunday.

It was a repeat result of the first round victory to the Griffins in Canberra and the one that will give the ACT side encouragement before its semi-final against Wollongong City next Sunday in Wollongong.

The visitors had the first opportunity after only seven minutes but Steve Watson made a brilliant diving save in finger tipping the ball around the post for a corner.

Roy Cotton saved on

the line following the corner kick, then came Blacktown with a couple of opportunities late in the first half.

Grant Lee found the side netting from a good position in the 39th then Economopoulos made a backward diving save to tip the ball against the crossbar in the 42nd.

Alan Reis looked set to increase his tally of goals in the 56th but was brought down by Peter Denyer and Steve Bryant opened the scoring from the resultant penalty.

Tom Sermani ended any hope of a Blacktown come back with a fine solo goal in the 76th. He beat two players before placing his shot wide of Watson.

Thus ended the Demons season of woe. From being runaway leaders at one stage to

finishing third in the League and facing the fast improving Melita Eagles in the sudden death play-off next weekend.

Darren Northam had to leave the field with an injury late in the game leaving coach Les Scheinflug with a giant size headache should the injury prevent the youngsters from taking further part in the play-offs.

On the bright side of things, Blacktown City reserves thumped five past Canberra with Mark Moffitt notching a hat-trick to win the State League reserves for 1987 without a loss.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Watson, Maier, Sterrey, Reynolds, Northam, Denyer, Kay, Byrne (57th Jeffrey), Sandy, Lee, Cotton (Van Blerk 33rd).

CANBERRA CRIFFINS: Economopoulos, Bryant, Mazis, Dunne, Suarez, P. Reis, Junna, Sermani, Gardikiotis (83rd Willox), A. Reis, Gonzales (46th Fernandez).

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Lou Dounis

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Milenkovski, Muhlbauer, Campbell, Dufkovski, Sweeney, Allport, Giraldi, Ruskin, Gardiner, Popovski, Brown.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN: Barker, Boogaard, Mitrevski, Pilovski, J. Wilson, Tortevski (48th Spirovski), Rodas, D. Wilson, Genovese, Dounis, Markovski.

BROWN BAGS TWO

BRIAN BROWN scored twice at the Wollongong Showground last Wednesday night to steer his side to a 2-0 victory over Rockdale Ilinden.

For the locals it was a game they had to win hence the effort put in by Wollongong Macedonia. Alas, for all the effort, it was a mistake riddled match with the outcome the only pleasing aspect for the home team.

Phil Muhlbauer provided the cross in the 20th minute which was misjudged by Ian Barker and Brown at the far post had an easy nod to give the locals the lead.

Wollongong continued to attack and went further ahead in the 57th following a long throw by Muhlbauer. His throw was misused badly by a number of players before Brown latched onto the ball close to the line to make it 2-0.

Apart from an effort by Louis Dounis in the 48th when Tom Milenkovski

was called upon to make a superb save, the visitors rarely threatened.

WOLVES HEAD

FOR THE NSL

WOLLONGONG CITY ended the season on a high note by beating relegation threatened Manly Warringah 6-0 at the Wollongong Showground last Sunday with **Randell Easthorpe** and **Roberto Giraldi** notching hat-tricks.

The celebration almost started from the kick-off at the Showground as Giraldi threaded his through ball for Rade Stefanovski and the winger found Randell Easthorpe who made no mistake.

After only 19 seconds of play the Wolves were on their way.

Manly was beaten there and then and the tension that filled the Wolves dressing room before the match was all but gone.

After 18 minutes Giraldi netted from a cross by Jeff Ainsworth then Easthorpe added another with eight minutes to half time to put the issue beyond doubt.

Easthorpe and Pat Brodnik missed some early second half chances before Giraldi notched his second for the match in the 59th following a through ball by Ainsworth.

David Skeen found Stefanovski on the flank in the 62nd and yet another goal followed through the clinical finishing of Easthorpe to make it 5-0.

With two minutes remaining Mike Holifield crossed for Giraldi to complete his hat-trick and minutes later the crowd

stood to the new League champions.

Champagne corks popped in the Wollongong dressing room after the match while the man who guided Wollongong City to its first ever State League title, John Fleming could not hide his elation.

"I kept telling my players all season that we would win the League, that being second is as good as being last. I must admit that after scoring a goal so early it turned out to be an anti-climax."

The City coach was proud of every player in his team but pointed out to a great improvement in Rade Stefanovski.

"After watching last year's FA Cup Final with my players I pointed out to Stefanovski that more often than not a good cross will always provide an opportunity for his strikers. He followed my advice and Easthorpe and Giraldi have been at the end of at least half of those notching 31 goals between them," said Fleming.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Young, Skeen, Holifield, Dickson, Morlando, Cokely, Ainsworth, Stefanovski, Giraldi, Brodnik, Easthorpe.

MANLY: Tingle, Dennis (De Graaf), Sestanovich, Williamson, Pearce, Stuart, Juergens, Carrick, Cimarosti, Etherington, Ferguson.

State Bank

★ SEMI-FINALS ★

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12
BALGOWNIE SPORTS GROUND
7PM 1ST GRADE

WOLLONGONG CITY v CANBERRA CITY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13
MARCONI STADIUM
3PM 1ST GRADE

BLACKTOWN CITY v MELITA EAGLES

1PM 2ND GRADE

BLACKTOWN CITY v WARRINGAH F/WATER

11AM 2ND GRADE

MELITA EAGLES v SUTHERLAND

★ STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 ★

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13
FRANCIS PARK

3rd grade 10.30am
2nd grade 12.30pm
1st grade 2.30pm

North Bankstown v Yugal
King Tomislav or Polonia v Gladesville Hornsby
POLONIA v NORTH BANKSTOWN

LYNWOOD PARK

3rd grade 10.30am
2nd grade 12.30pm
1st grade 2.30pm

Kingsford v Queens Park
Polonia or King Tomislav v Avala
FAIRY MEADOW v KINGSFORD

★ STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 ★

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12
POPONDETTA PARK

3rd grade 10.30am 2v4
2nd grade 12.30pm 2v4
1st grade 2.30pm 2v4

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13
SEYMOUR SHAW PARK

3rd grade 10.30am 1v3
2nd grade 12.30pm 1v3
1st grade 2.30pm 1v3

(Deciding match Wed September 9, West Utd v King Tomislav at Croatian Sports Centre 8pm)

State Bank



POLONIA HIT CRITICS FOR FOUR!

By LES SHORROCK

THE State League race is almost over bar the shouting. Just as we were all prepared to write off Polonia because of its inability to score goals, it answered in the most positive way, by scoring no fewer than four.

Now Polonia has only two competitive games left, but this week's clash with Caulfield could clinch the championship.

Caulfield has to win this one, or kiss the title goodbye. Fawknor officials will be listening to the progress of that game with bated breath, whilst tackling the great improver, Thomastown away from home, which won't be easy.

There is just as much drama at the other end of the ladder, too. Oakleigh grabbed what could be a life-saving point as its two fellow-strugglers, Frankston Pines and Northcote crashed heavily.

All three clubs are engaged on Saturday, with Pines facing probably the biggest task. Even so, the question of who accompanies Broadmeadows back into the Victorian League might not be answered until the last kick of the season.

My tips: Saturday: Northcote, Croydon, Morwell Falcons. Sunday: Western Suburbs, St. Albans, Polonia v Caulfield (draw), Thomastown v Fawknor (draw).

Victorian State
League Round-up by
Les Shorrock and
Vlado Vlahovic.



PAUL GRIFFIN (right) of Caulfield and BARRY BURTON (left) of Box Hill. Photo Les Shorrock.

FRANKSTON LEFT PINING

MARIBYNONG Polonia nudged Frankston Pines nearer the abyss and itself got one hand on the championship trophy with a decisive 4-0 trouncing at Monterey Reserve.

The Polonia cheeky chappie and captain-coach Nelson started the rot with a gentle header

over Pines goalkeeper Branko Radov that almost gave Pines coach Danny McMinimee apoplexy.

That goal was the difference between the two teams at half-time, and in the opening period of the second half only a poor refereeing decision prevented Pines from equalising.

Graham Watson was in full cry for goal when he was fouled by Polonia's giant centre-back Aki Kotzamichalis. He recovered his balance and was about to fire past the Polonia goalkeeper when the referee belatedly blew for the foul, thus robbing Pines of the advantage.

Afterwards McMinimee claimed that was the turn-

ing point of the game. Polonia striker Storm scored twice, once from the penalty spot and Czapnik completed the rout.

FRANKSTON PINES: Radov, Thurlow, McDonough, Paulding, Miller, Bentley, Riley, Bozic (Smith 65th), Ferris (Harvey 65th), Armstrong, Watson.

POLONIA: Kostezawa, Liparski, Bennett, Kotzamichalis, Chetcuti, Czapnik, Nelson, Wycislyk, Baran, Lakic (Marshall 60th), Storm.

CROYDON SAFE

AFTER a season spent under threat of relegation, Croydon now can breathe easier after this decisive 4-1 victory over Northcote City.

But the same cannot be said for Northcote, which, after an encouraging result the previous week, must be disappointed that it lapsed so badly and is again in great danger of the drop.

Croydon dominated this game from the kick-off, but thanks to another bit of South American magic found itself in arrears at the 30 minute mark.

Northcote's Maradona, Pedro Pamos, did the damage with a vicious dipping volley from well outside the penalty area that deceived Keith Waterman and glanced in off the post.

However, despite this setback completely against the run of play,

Croydon was back in the game within two minutes, thanks to a cross from midfielder Nick van Egmond which was headed home by Graham French.

Another goal from Tony Redmond ensured that Croydon went in at half-time with a 2-1 advantage and firmly in control.

Two more goals from French only served to emphasise Croydon's superiority and complete Northcote's misery.

CROYDON CITY: Waterman, Brown, Redmond, Riley, Beech, van Egmond, Nelson, Brack, Livingstone (Bryant 85th), Brog Leonardos, (Marshall 80th).

NORTHCOTE CITY: Giannopoulos, Leonardos, Tsangos, Kouremenos, Patinotis, Small, Temos, Ramos, Bozakis, Constantinou, Gymnopoulos (J. Constantinou 70th).

OAKLEIGH PLUGS AWAY

RELEGATION-haunted Oakleigh snatched a last-minute equaliser in its 2-2 draw with Green Gully that might prove to be its salvation.

Theoretically Gully could still win the title, but since the club has told its players Polonia has the championship wrapped up, don't hold your breath.

Playing with the breeze behind it, it dominated the first half, and went in for the break deservedly a goal up, thanks to a free-kick cleverly taken by Les Carter.

However, during the break Pat McCluskey, who had done a good job in the Green's defence, had to be replaced by Danny Zemunik, owing to a slight muscle strain, and this disorganised the rearguard somewhat.

But during the opening ten minutes, Gully continued to dominate, until Oakleigh's Peter Vardaxis dummied his way through and set up Ally Dick for the equaliser.

Gully came back however, and seemed to have the game in its keeping when big Joe Sweeney volleyed past Mike Ioakimidis to make the score 2-1.

Oakleigh plugged on and in the dying seconds, the irrepressible Ally Dick

crossed for Steve Irvine to head the equaliser

GREEN GULLY: Sant, McCluskey (Zemunik 46m), Cannell, Hogen, Grimeud, Quigley, Carter, Douglas, McClelland, Cumming (Spiteri 75th), Sweeney.

OAKLEIGH: Ioakimidis, Laleta, Cumming, Langesbury, Gourlos, Kalitidis, Dick, Ross, Politis, Irvine, Vardaxis.

BROADMEADOWS 0 SPRINGVALE 2

Springvale City drove another nail in to the coffin of bottom placed Broadmeadows with a convincing 2-0 win.

Springvale started the game favorite and soon had their opponents defending desperately.

An early goal by Robert Stewart set the pace for Springvale city. The crafty forward deceived Broadmeadows keeper Darren Pace and hammered the ball in the net.

Broadie weathered ton-

nes of pressure in the opening half with Springvale constantly invading their area.

Their resistance finally crumbled in the second half when Rober Stewart hammered the ball in the net for the second time, putting the result beyond doubt.

BROADMEADOWS: Pace, Smart, D.Blair, Donaldson, T.Ciantar, Kadlecik, Vizzini (Mizzi 30), Migham, Borg, S.Blair, J.Ciantar.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Boland, Rolleman, Krall, Williams, Blasinger, Black Hennessey 46), Bannon, Swinscoe, Stewart, House, Morrey.

VALE'S STEWART ON THE TARGET

THE AIS boys notched up another meaningless victory on Saturday night, this time at the expense of an under-strength Western Suburbs.

For the second time this season, Wests originally refused to play the fixture, but eventually capitulated, a decision that they must have regretted later.

They travelled to Canberra without Andy Edwards, who has gone back to Wrexham, and Darren Tuck, who was unfit.

Wests provided only token resistance in a one-

sided affair, with the massacre starting as early as the third minute.

For the record, winger John Koch scored four, two in each half, and Wests' only moment of glory came when John Roupis volleyed a goal in the 53rd minute.

After that it was one-way traffic for the rest of the game.

VALE: Gunning, Healey, Cummings, Mills, C.Foster, Marcina (Gibson 75th), Polak, Clarkson, Edwards, P.Foster, Koch.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Kerdemitsis (Hatzilazarou 46m), Constantinidis, Koutouris, Dimovski, Esposito, Kagiogalou, Stefanidis, Kyriazis, Roupis, Minh, Kopstatie.

ALTHOUGH Broadmeadows put up a good fight, Springvale eventually proved too good for it at Laura Douglas Reserve to run out a comfortable 2-0 winner.

Springvale started brightly and went ahead after only seven minutes when striker Robert Stewart deceived Broadie 'keeper Darren Pace and slammed the ball past him.

Broadmeadows striker John Ciantar was causing problems and he went through well to score, only to be ruled offside by referee Andy Frangou.

Nothing daunted, the young striker then fired in a pile-driver that Vale's keeper Dennis Boland was happy to tip over the bar.

However, Broadmeadows faded after that effort, and it was a sign of things to come when a tremendous effort by Jim Williams had Pace at full stretch to save.

Robert Morrey should have put the issue

beyond doubt when he had only Pace to beat, but his shot went straight at the 'keeper.

Finally Robert Stewart did the trick with another fine volley.

After the game, Springvale coach Bob McLachlan said that for him the most pleasing aspect of the season had been the way that younger players had shouldered responsibility without letting him down when so many first team players had been missing for various reasons.

BROADMEADOWS: Pace, Smart, D.Blair, Donaldson, T.Ciantar, Kadlecik, Vizzini (Mizzi 30th), Migham, Borg, S.Blair, J.Ciantar.

SPRINGVALE: Boland, Rolleman, Krall, Williams, Blasinger, Black (Hennessey 46m), Bannon, Swinscoe, Stewart, House, Morrey.

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PAUL GRIFFIN (Caulfield) strides over JIM McBRIDE (Box Hill) in Victorian State League weekend action. Les Shorrock pic.

THIS MATCH WAS A TONIC

By LES SHORROCK

AFTER enduring the misery of watching that absolutely excruciatingly boring apology for an international match on Wednesday, it was a tonic to be able to see this thoroughly entertaining 1-1 draw between Caulfield and Box Hill.

Caulfield, making a spirited bid to win the title tore into Box Hill from the kick-off, with its nippy little forwards revelling in the firm pitch, and it seemed it was only a matter of time before it took the lead.

But the dogged Box Hill defenders, marshalled and exhorted ceaselessly by centre-back Dean Hennessy, somehow hung on, waiting for the onslaught to pass.

Half-time came with the game still scoreless and, after the break, the roof fell in on Caulfield with the second half only four minutes old.

A cross from the right eluded everyone but Alan Roodhouse, lurking unattended by the far post, and he headed in well out

of Robert Madjer's reach.

You could almost feel Caulfield wilt at the blow and for a while it looked as if it had thrown in the towel.

But Paul Harris won't accept defeat, and he roared at his team-mates until they pulled themselves together.

Then followed 20 minutes of nail-biting drama as Caulfield threw everything but the kitchen sink at a beleaguered Box Hill.

Something just had to give, and after Harris had hit the post, Con Pappas pounced on a ball and drove it past 'goalie John McKinlay for the equaliser.

That's usually when Pappas runs off the field and embraces most of his family.

This was no occasion for such theatricals. This time he followed the ball into the net, plucked it out and raced back to the centre spot with it.

Shades of Eusebio against Korea, World Cup '66!

There were just 15 minutes left, could Box Hill hold out! Yes it could and did, but only because referee George Blakey didn't see a Box Hill defender's handball in the penalty area five minutes from time.

Apparently the eagle-eyed linesman, who had been flagging vigorously for every trivial incident failed to notice it too. I hope he didn't drive through a red light on his way home.

After the game, Box Hill coach George Murray, whilst conceding the penalty should have been awarded said that he would have hated Caulfield to have been offered the chances his team muffed in the second half when Caulfield had thrown caution to the winds.

Both centre-halves, Harris and Hennessy were superb, and nobody played better than ex-Box Hill midfielder, Phil Griffin, who had his best game ever in a blue shirt.

CAULFIELD CITY: Madjer, Bitsonis (Sahinidis 57th), Mitchell, Harris, Koutos, Theoharous, Hamakiotis, Griffin, Dellgiannis (Abraam 52nd), Pappas, Fillpou.

BOX HILL: McKinlay, Davidson, Dimitrios, Hennessy, McMillan, Brimmer, Burton, McArthur, McBride, Thomas (McAleer 65th), Roodhouse.

FAWKNER PRESSING

FAWKNER remain the only title threat to leaders Maribynong Polonia following their narrow 1-0 win over ill-fated Morwell Falcons last Sunday.

An early goal gave Fawknor the points and added to the woes of the visitors, who have been tested by misfortune in their recent outings.

Falcons coach Dave O'Connor was a disappointed man after the game, having seeing his players squandering

numerous opportunities and finally concede defeat.

Fawknor coach Mike Lynn also allowed after the game Falcons had created a glut of scoring opportunities but accepted the two points graciously, suggesting his team has often been robbed by luck in the demanding state competition.

Former South Melbourne and Heidelberg forward Doug Brown kept Fawknor's championship hopes alive with a superb header after 15 minutes.

The experienced striker connected with a cross by Ian Tuffield to head the ball in the net.

The Falcons refused to surrender and mounted some sizzling attacks aiming at the equaliser.

Luck deserted them before half-time when midfielder Graham Tutill was put through by Mark Casar and unleashed a piledriver only to see the ball rebounding off the woodwork.

Brown's goal however proved the decider, and Fawknor maintained their close distance from leaders Polonia.

FAWKNER: Wilson, Ferta, Schipano, Fattore, Sabatino, Stenson (Walsh 46), Verecchia, Bordignon, Pallinas, Tuffield, Brown.

MORWELL: Prezioso, M.Cassar (Collochio 75), Gortis, Clarke, Brunt, E.Cassar, O'Callaghan, Doyle, Tutill, Bezzina, Webster.

16 D. Morovic (St. Albans), 14 J. Sweeney (Green Gully), 12 D. Brown (Fawknor), 11 R. McGuinness (Thomastown), I. Tuffield (Fawknor), 10. K. Storm (Polonia), D. Tuck (Western Suburbs), 9 A. Dick (Oakleigh, inc. 3 for Pines), G. Warszawski (Polonia), 8 S. Irvine (Oakleigh), 7 P. Kadlecik (Broadmeadows).

STATE LEAGUE AS AT SEPTEMBER 5 FIRSTS

Maribymong	26	16	6	4	41	23	38
Fawknor	25	14	6	5	38	23	34
Caulfield City	25	12	9	4	36	21	33
Green Gully	25	11	11	3	39	26	33
St. Albans	25	10	10	5	31	25	30
Thomastown	25	10	9	6	29	29	29
Western Suburbs	25	9	6	10	37	36	24
Morwell Falcons	26	6	12	8	28	27	24
Springvale City	25	6	11	8	28	29	23
Box Hill	25	6	10	9	33	28	22
Croydon City	24	5	12	7	24	25	22
Oakleigh	25	8	4	13	35	40	20
Frankston Pines	25	6	6	13	43	47	18
Northcote City	25	6	5	14	23	46	17
Broadmeadows	25	3	3	19	21	50	9

FAWKNER 1 (Brown) MORWELL FALCONS 0.
CROYDON 4 (French 3, Redmond) NORTHCOTE 1 (Ramos).

FRANKSTON PINES 0 POLONIA 4 (Storm 2, Nelson, Czarnik).

BROADMEADOWS 0 SPRINGVALE 2 (Stewart 2).
GREEN GULLY 2 (Sweeney, Carter) OAKLEIGH (2 Irvine, Dick).

CAULFIELD 1 (Pappas) BOX HILL 1 (Roodhouse).
ST. ALBANS 0 THOMASTOWN 2 (McGUINNESS 2).

AIS 6 (Koch 4, P. Foster 2) WESTERN SUBURBS 1 (Roumpis).

VICTORIAN FIXTURES

VIC STATE LEAGUE
SATURDAY SEPT 12th RD 28
Northcote City v Broadmeadows,
Oakleigh v Croydon City, Morwell Falcons v Frankston Pines.

VIC STATE LEAGUE
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13th
Western Suburbs v Green Gully,
Springvale City v St Albans, Box Hill v AIS, Maribymong v Caulfield City,
Thomastown v Fawknor.

VIC LEAGUE DIV 1
SATURDAY SEPT 12th RD 25
Essendon City v Werribee, Sunbury United v Bulleen, Nunawading City v Melbourne.

SUNDAY SEPT 13th
Sm Mordialloc v North Dandenong,
Albion Rovers v Knox City, Richmond v Altona Gate, Ringwood City v Doncaster Rovers.

VIC LEAGUE DIV 2
SATURDAY SEPT 12th RD 25
Eltham v Sandringham, Ringwood United v Hamlyn Rangers, Prahran City v Dandenong City, North Geelong v Waverley City, Mornington v Altona City, Doveton v Westgate, Mooroolbark v Clifton Hill.

VIC LEAGUE DIV 3
SATURDAY SEPT 12th RD 25
Clarinda v Yallourn, West Brunswick v Ferntree Gully, Yarraville v Bell Park, Springvale United v Keilor, Rosanna v Moreland Park Rangers, Corio-Geelong United v Moorabbin City, Geelong v Port Melbourne.

VIC LEAGUE DIV 4
SATURDAY SEPT 12th RD 25
Holland Park v Seaford, Pascoe Vale v East Brunswick, Williamstown v Karingal United, Prahran v Boronia, Lalor United v Coburg, Langwarrin v Hawthorn, Keysborough v Diamond Valley Utd.

CROYDON 4 NORTHCOTE 1

Croydon City crashed relegation candidates Northcote City 4-1 to hoist themselves clear from the relegation zone.

A hat-trick by veteran forward Graham French helped demolish the weak Northcote and leave them languishing in the relegation zone.

Croydon dominated the game from the outset but at half-time they found themselves one goal down.

Against the run of play Northcote midfielder Pedro Ramos connected with a free-kick outside the area and fired a shot that rebounded off the post in the net.

Croydon City reversed the tide and levelled the score with a perfect header by veteran striker Graham French.

The equaliser proved the turning point in the game. Croydon increased the pressure on their opponents and minutes before half-time

Croydon City: Waterman, Brown, Redmond, Riley, Beech, Van Egmond, Nelson, Brack, Livingstone (Brighant 85), Brogan, French (Marshall 80).

Northcote City: Giannopoulos, Leonardos, Tsangos, Kouremenos, Patiniotis, Small, Temow, Ramos, Bozika, Constantinou, Giannopoulos J. (Constantinou 70).

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Former Socceroo captain **JOHNNY WARREN** runs the rule over Sydney Olympic's Youth Socceroos — **ABBAS SAAD**. Read on...

ABBAS IS AUSSIE GAIN

It's a long way from playing pick-up games in the back streets of war-torn Lebanon to wearing the green and gold of Australia in world competition.

As unlikely as it may seem, it will be the route taken by Young Socceroo ace Abbas Saad when he takes his place in the Australian side in the World Youth Championship for the Coca-Cola Cup in Chile in October. The boy from Beirut can hardly believe his luck and neither can anyone in Australia.

lia who takes an interest in the progress of our young players.

Nineteen year old Saad has impressed more than one critic since bursting onto the NSL scene with the now defunct Sydney City in 1986 and is now a key player in the resurrection of Sydney Olympic inspired by Eddie Thomson.

Saad was arguably the Young Socceroos' best player in the New Zealand qualification matches for a spot in Chile.

Goals

The lads who learned most of his skills in those early impromptu matches in Lebanon has two very realistic goals to aim for this year.

The first is to play his part in securing Sydney Olympic a spot in the top five which will give the club the chance to win the play-off series.

The other is to help Les Scheinflug's Young Socceroos in the World Youth Championship in

Chile.

Ten years ago the likeable Abbas wouldn't have believed that he would one day play in a world competition representing a country he had never heard of.

Then, his world was totally absorbed in the never-ending pickup matches in the streets and on playing fields of concrete, asphalt and clay in Beirut.

Those were enjoyable days for young Saad who says he acquired his above average technical skills in soccer mad Lebanon.

"Everyone plays football in Lebanon but even though we played it day and night it was never on a competition basis and the fields were only half the size of a normal football ground," Saad said, recalling those formative years.

In those days Saad, like all his mates, had never heard of Australia let alone thought that he would one day represent it against the world's best.

Even when he came to Australia as a nine year old with his family, soccer and Australia were a dream.

For Saad's early Aussie days at Southern Sydney suburban school Kingsgrove Public were spent playing fullback and centre for the school's rugby league team.

It was not until two and a half years later that Saad resumed his soccer career with the local church team — Kingsgrove YMCA.

Saad's initial opinion of Australian soccer remains true today — "not as skilful as Lebanon but much more physical."

Thomson

Sydney Olympic became his 'first' NSL club and he played there for three years at Under 14s, 15s and 16s level.

A schoolmate at Hurstville Boys' High, Fabian Saccialeto, who was also a member of Sydney City's youth squad, persuaded Abbas to trial with the national champion.

Sydney City youth coach Geoff Harcombe was impressed by Saad

and signed him in 1985.

Also impressed was Sydney City boss Eddie Thomson, who a year later gave Saad his first chance in the senior side at the club.

"I will never forget my debut," recalls Saad.

"It was against my 'old' club Sydney Olympic and it was a vital match. We drew 1-1 and I got our goal with a header."

Saad and Sydney City seemed set for a big season in 1987 but those dreams were dashed with the sensational withdrawal of the club after the first round.

As has so often happened already in young Abbas Saad's life, the shattered dream became the basis for better things.

Along with Eddie Thomson he joined his Olympic for a second time in a move neither would regret.

Saad does not hide his admiration for Eddie Thomson and says that along with Geoff Harcombe and Mike Hickman, Thomson has had the greatest influence on his career.

Thomson also has high praise for the youngster.

"Abbas is a natural talent who is the perfect linkman between the midfield and attack," Thomson says of the youngster.

"His movement off the ball, his vision and his high quality technical skills are exceptional for such a young player."

"But his most impressive asset is that he is coachable and is always willing to learn."

A troublesome knee injury (right medial ligaments) has sidelined Saad four times this year and is the only cloud on the horizon for the Young Socceroo star.

With that under control, the feeling is that we are all going to hear a lot more about Abbas Saad before the year is over.

With the boys from Beirut playing his part, the hopes are that it will include honours for the Young Socceroos.



ABBAS SAAD

Born: Beirut Lebanon, 1 December 1967.

Family: Father Ali, mother Fandie, sister Gadah (15), brothers Hassan (27), Hasan (22) and Reda (18).

NSL Career Details: Sydney City.

1986: 8 apps. + 8 sub. 2 goals. Sydney Olympic.

Debut: Olympic 0 St George 0. 20 April 1987.

Biggest influence on career: Geoff Harcombe, Mike Hickman, Eddie Thomson.

Favourite overseas players: Preben Elkjaer (Verona and Denmark), Maradona, Pele.

Local players who have influenced career: Steve O'Connor, John Kosmina, Alex Robertson, Murray Barnes, Joe Watson, David Ratcliffe, Peter Raskopoulos.

Ambitions: To play for Australia and to play professionally in Europe; preferably France.

Abbas Saad has thanked Australian Soccer Federation vice-president Charlie Perkins for his eligibility to play for Australia.

Only days before the Young Socceroos were to play in the Oceania qualifying group of the World Youth Championship, Saad's Australian passport application hit problems with the Australian Government.

A discrepancy over Lebanese and Australian documents regarding Saad's date of birth threatened to see him ruled out of the tournament.

Quick action by Perkins rectified the matter in hours, otherwise Saad would not have been in NZ and Australia may not have been on its way to Chile.

ABBAS SAAD — the action man. Inset and Below. Saad takes on Spiro Hantzis (Olympic) in Sydney City's one and only match this year.



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THE TOP SCORERS

ALAN REIS of Canberra Griffins brought at least one title to ACT for 1987. He finished with 19 goals for the season and is three goals ahead of his nearest rival, Randell Easthorpe and four ahead of Roberto Giraldi, both of Wollongong City.

A further goal down the list is Marko Perinovic of Inter Monaro. The side from Queanbeyan still has two games to play but it is difficult to see Perinovic scoring six goals to overtake Reis.

Perinovic managed five in one encounter with Canterbury but few would believe it possible against relegation threatened Manly or Rockdale Ilinden.

19 Alan Reis (Canberra), 16 Randell Easthorpe (Wollongong City), 15 Roberto Giraldi (Wollongong City), 14 Marko Perinovic (Inter Monaro), 11 G. Brown (ME), Batten (UP), 10 Jeffery (K), Rodrigues (ME), 9 Glampaolo (IM), Bottalico (RI), Reynolds, Lee (BC), Vial (ME), McKie (UP), 8 Fernandez (IM), Kay (BC), Alinsworth, Brodnik (WC), Calsley (N), 7 Maier (BC), Callanan (ME), Dounis (RI), Caban (S), Genc (UP).



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SOUTH MELBOURNE LOOKS FOR THE FIVE UNDER BRIAN GARVEY

BY LES SHORROCK

THE 1988 season has been a traumatic year for South Melbourne supporters. The team has had more ups and downs than a Luna Park ride.

In fact it would be fair to say that it has been consistent only in its inconsistency.

After the mid-season break, South opened brilliantly, with wins at Marconi and then over Melbourne Croatia at home, followed by a very creditable draw in Sydney against Sydney Olympic.

But after that the rot set in, starting with that traumatic 3-0 loss to George Cross, which it is fair to say has to be recorded as the upset of the season.

South that day was without Charlie Egan and Stuart Stevenson and it showed.

That result had a ripple effect, in fact the next four matches went depressingly draw, loss, draw, loss.

The loss against Brunswick Juventus at Middle Park, when Gary McDowall limped off with a pulled hamstring and the South defence collapsed in the last minutes, was the pits as far as South supporters were concerned, and the whole town was alive with rumour.

STABILITY

The committee, to its credit, was alive to the situation, and it acted promptly, not as some clubs would have done by the knee-jerk reaction of sacking the coach, but by confirming its faith in him.

In the week before the next game Brian Garvey had his contract renewed for the 1988 season. As president Chris Christopher explains it was only commonsense really.

The projected start to next season was only five months away, so sacking the coach and then seeking another in the time was hardly practical, but most importantly, the club was satisfied with the "quiet

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BACK ROW: left to right: Brian Garvey (coach), Bobby Russell, Steve Blair, Stuart Stevenson, Paul Wade, Richard Miranda, Gary McDowall, Angie Postecoglou.

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achiever", had faith in him and wanted to scotch the rumour-mongers before they sapped the team's morale.

And Garvey himself took firm action. He dropped Peter Laumets, who hadn't been dropped since Tommy Docherty's reign back in 1982, and he also dropped Charlie Egan who had never been dropped before.

Laumet is South's longest serving player, but that didn't bother Garvey, who installed in his place 21-year-old Con Giatas for his senior debut. Giatas did well, and Garvey had made his point — that nobody is indispensable — but it's London to a brick on that Laumets will be reinstated for this week's Greek derby, it's too big an occasion.

Egan's case is a bit different because the result of Garvey's bold action is now history. South even without the suspended Gary McDowall, played its best soccer for months, Stuart Stevenson led the attack with zest and, as he and fellow striker Danny Wright grabbed the goals, South disposed of St George.

CUP COMING

So there could be something for South fans to rejoice yet at the end of this long winter of discontent.

A spot in the Final Five is up for grabs, and of course there's still that lovely Cup to be played for in October.

So the season could still end on a high note, even though the days of big crowds for the derby clashes seem to have gone forever.

It's just as well too, because a strong South Melbourne has always been an essential ingredient in the Victorian soccer scene, and the club will go on even if the National League might have faded away.

Last Sunday two goals from Paul Wade enabled the Blues to down champions Adelaide City in Adelaide.

This week we will see a game that has been a tradition in Melbourne, and an attacking outlook in South Melbourne-Heidelberg clash makes the game worth travelling those legendary miles to witness.

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URGENT CLEAN-UP NEEDED

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

THE NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE must immediately step in and clean up the thuggery that has somehow infiltrated into the game.

What is a most distressing fact, but one which has today become part and parcel of the game, is that many teams in the NSL have at least one such player in their line-up.

This 'thug' or 'hitman' has the capacity to put a skilled player, usually a striker, out of the match with what I believe is malicious, over-physical tackling.

Make no mistake that these players are not only defenders. They include

midfielders and even strikers.

One such person is a striker.

In a match involving Sydney Olympic ace entertainer Vicente Estavillo made a dangerous break down the right flank.

From nowhere, an opposing player flashed across and flattened him with a vicious elbow across the South American's face.

The referee allowed play on.

'Joe Public' wants to be entertained by colour, skills and imagination in Soccer.

Soccer fans, unlike many followers of rugby league, want to see goals

and super-skilled players, NOT thuggery.

Last Sunday Australian World Cup skipper Charlie Yankos appeared to be on the receiving end of a vicious kick to the body and jaw that laid him out cold for more than four minutes on my watch.

Can you imagine if England's national skipper, Bryan Robson was laid out in the same fashion what kind of uproar this would have created?

In any case a player has the right to sue an alleged offender for occasioning malicious bodily harm.

As it happened Yankos himself was sent off for alleged retaliation, but it was the original incident that triggered off the reprisal.

I consider that over the last 10 years, Australian Soccer, whatever our administrators, referees, coaches or players would like to believe, has become more violent.

Everybody in the code is to blame.

Firstly, as World Youth Championship coach, Les Schienflug said recently, are the coaches themselves guilty for encouraging such violent play.

Secondly are the re-

ferees for showing a huge amounts of tolerance.

Despite what most would like to believe, "hitting from behind" (that's a player being tackled once he has passed his defender), is outlawed in Australia.

But Australian referees still seem to allow it even though it is outlawed.

Eddie Krncevic, former Australian World Cup striker, commented: "I can't believe how violent Australian Soccer has become since I first departed for overseas four years ago".

The skilled players are gradually being killed off.

And as that happens so is Soccer as a spectator sport.

A well known Marconi international said last week: "It is bloody unbelievable how rough it has gotten out there."

"A team can no longer rely on just skills to win games."

The tough Marconi player, who himself could never be called a softy, was being explicitly honest.

Severe penalties must be brought in immediately, and not left till next year.



Sydney Olympic's skipper PETER RASKOPOULOS gets carted off Bossley Park after being injured in a tackle. Photo — Modern Studios.

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AS TOUGH AS STEEL(E)!

**STOWELL
GOES FOR
JOEY'S**

MOUNT Gravatt, one of the most successful clubs in the Queensland XXXX League, has gone for continued stability in naming this year's reserves coach Ian Steele to lead the first team next season.

Hawks president Paul Lonton announced Steele's appointment this week, only days after current coach Eric Thompson revealed he would be moving on after 10 years at Dittmer Park.

Steele has been Thompson's understudy for the past two years and is a former Mount Gravatt player, winning the coveted Rothman's gold medal with the club in 1978.

"Ian knows the set-up and the players at Mount Gravatt. The committee felt that by naming him as Thommo's replacement, and naming him as soon as possible, would ensure the transition between coaches would take place with the minimum of fuss," Lonton said.

Steele is one of the best known characters in Queensland Soccer and played for the State six times. His playing career started in the lower non-leagues in Britain and he played representative football for Sussex. His first Australian club was North Brisbane (then Polonia and now Lutwyche) but he had a stint at Lions, another at North Brisbane before going to Mount Gravatt.

He left the Hawks five years ago to take up a player-coach appointment with

division two club Pine Rivers and then had a stint with Newmarket before coming "home" to Dittmer Park to hone his coaching skills with the reserves.

Steele is enthusiastically looking forward to his first season as a top-line coach and has predicted few changes at Mount Gravatt.

"I intend to continue our policy of playing the best football we can. I believe if you play good football then the results will come," Steele said.

This season has been one of transition on the field, too, for the Hawks and Thompson has laid the groundwork for Steele to go on and rebuild the club. After dominating the State and Premier League (now the XXXX League) taking championships and premierships, this season has been a lean one for the Hawks.

But even in times of rebuilding, they still challenged for a top four position and up until last week, it was still mathematically possible for them to make the semi-finals.

In announcing Steele's appointment, Lonton also had further good news for Hawks supporters when he revealed he had decided to reverse his decision not to stand for the club presidency next year. After a hectic four years, Lonton felt he needed a break but he said the last few weeks had re-charged his enthusiasm.

"We have achieved our five-year plan 12 months early and I want to be there to put the second five-year plan into operation. I will be standing again," Lonton said, much to the relief of the Mount Gravatt committee and supporters.

QUEENSLAND coach Bruce Stowell will return from holidaying in Britain this week to discover whether he will be involved in the Joey's 1989 Junior World Cup campaign.

Stowell, who has accompanied NSW's Vic Dalgleish on the past two campaigns, is among four candidates for the 1989 coaching job. The others are Dalgleish, Victoria's Tim White and Northern NSW's Ken Kaiser.

The ASF's Youth and Junior World Cup committee will decide on the coach this month to allow him to attend the national under 14 championships in Hobart which will provide the next Australian Under 16 players.

The committee, which is chaired by ACT president Charlie Perkins and include WA's Joe Larcenza, South Australia's Alex Chichenowski, NSW's Ron Woods and Queensland's Ian Brusasco, faces a tough decision.

And although Stowell has been holidaying to recharge his batteries after a hectic representative season for Australia and Queensland, it has been very much a busman's holiday.

During his stay in England, he renewed his friendship with Queensland guest player Bryan Robson and spent a week at Manchester United.

Stowell also was a guest at the English FA's School of Excellence at Lilleshall, where he was shown that England are doing to produce top level young players. And he also spent time at Nottingham Forest, where famous coach Brian Clough is formulating an involved new Youth set-up.

"It's been a tremendous experience and I think you are always learning. I've have picked up a few things which I think would work well with our Under 16's," Stowell said by telephone from Manchester this week just prior to his return home.

BOASTING A BOOST

IN a move which could see Queensland Soccer boast some of the best sporting administrators in Australia within five years, the Queensland Soccer Federation is encouraging its clubs to assist officials or members to attend two new special Sports Courses which start at the Brisbane College of Advanced Education.

The new courses are designed to produce highly-qualified sports administrators, broadcasters and coaches.

"Australian sport is moving into a highly professional era and I believe that administrators must move in that direction as well. These courses look ideal in producing administrators, coaches and media people with the necessary qualifications," said QSF executive director Alan Vessey.

"I strongly urge clubs to assist, subsidise or just urge any of their members to investigate enrolling."

The courses can be taken either fulltime or part-time and will touch on almost every facet of sport.

The Diploma of Sports Studies has two strands — Sports Coaching and Sports Administration. The coaching strand covers techniques, sports physiology, motor development, anatomy, and sports medicine.

The administration stand will look at organising events, fund-raising and public relations, administration principles, computers in sport, sport and the law and writing for specific purposes.

A Bachelor of Arts (Sports Studies) can also be taken. For further details on either course, contact the Brisbane College of Advanced Education phone (07) 352 8153.

Miss Queensland

PRETTY Kim Fulton is Miss Queensland Soccer for 1987.

And the judges could not have selected a better qualified Soccer Queen. The 23-year-old attractive brunette has been raised on Soccer and knows as much about the Queensland games as some of the so-called experts.

Her mother, Kate has been involved in Soccer for nearly 10 years and is a director with former NSL club Brisbane Lions. Her younger brother Steve also plays at Richlands and is rated by many as one of the most skilful strikers in Brisbane.

But it was not Lions Kim represented in the Miss Soccer Quest.

Her boyfriend Michael Mulvey, a former Lions player, transferred to North Star this season, and the reigning premiers wasted no time in selecting Kim as their Soccer Queen.

In being named Miss Queensland Soccer, Kim won \$2000 of travel from Qantas, and true-to-form announced that her and Michael might use it to go to Italy for the 1990 World Cup!

The crowning of Kim as Queensland's Soccer Queen capped a brilliant evening at the Italo-Australian club. There were 26 finalists who all proudly wore their club colors and were enthusiastically cheered by bands of supporters.

The runner-up was Miss Newmarket, Alsace Johnson while third place went to Miss Rodelu, the stunning Sandra Sanchez.

They won prizes from Australian Airlines and the Rocks Resort at Currumbin.

FAGAN'S DELIGHT?

NORTH STAR coach Iain Fagan discovered last week the frustration of being a spectator.

While his championship chasing side played the game of the season to beat leaders Lions in a vital XXXX League clash, Fagan had to just sit in the stands and watch.

The outspoken coach was suspended for two matches by the QSF management committee for bringing the game into disrepute after he verbally clashed with referee Gordon Nicholson.

The terms of the suspension meant Fagan could have no contact with his team. So while tension was fever-pitched on the field and the bench, Fagan had to sit nervously and anxiously in the stands.

"I suppose I couldn't have done anymore being on the bench, but at least down there you feel like you are involved," Fagan said after the match as he proudly watched his players file into the dressing room for celebrations, which again he could not take part in.

During Fagan's suspension, the team was handled by his assistant Jim Cameron, who did a fine job and contributed a long way towards Fagan seeing the two weeks out.

"With Jim, I knew the team was in good hands. And I think the change probably did the boys good," Fagan said.

Fagan's suspension ends this week which will allow him to return to the North Star helm for the final round of fixtures in what is a thrilling end to the XXXX League. North Star, Lions or Azzurri Brisbane City could all take the title. North Star this weekend have Rochdale.

"I'll be putting the suspension behind me and getting on with the job of winning the premiership and the grand final," Fagan said.



BRUCE STOWELL (left), seeking Joey's appointment.

QUEENSLAND JUNIOR SOCCER COUNCIL 1988 STATE TEAM COACHES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons interested in appointment as a State Coach in one of the following age groups.

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ADAMSTOWN DIRECT TO GRAND FINALS

BY DAVE WILLIAMS

ADAMSTOWN Rosebud scored the four goals in beating Belmont-Swansea United 3-1 in the Tooheys Northern NSW State First Division major semi-final at the Adamstown Sports Ground last Sunday.

The win sent Adamstown into the grand final on September 20 and left Belmont-Swansea with the task of eliminating Austral United in next Sunday's final at Austral Park to have any chance of repeating last year's grand final success.

Adamstown appeared to be heading for an easy win when it led 2-0 at half-time on Sunday and increased the lead to 3-0 in the 68th minute.

But an own goal under extreme pressure by centre-back Tony de Groot in the 83rd minute gave the Belswans some hope of a reprieve.

Adamstown did the bulk of the defending with 10 minutes left and, in an incredible 10 seconds inside the last four minutes, the Rosebud goal survived no fewer than five shots from almost point blank range.

Adamstown asserted its superiority from the kick-off and in the fifth minute, Gavin McDonald volleyed

a stiff shot from a Sean Ingham cross only to see David Connor save brilliantly.

For about 15 minutes, Belmont-Swansea was forced to defend. Then against the run of play, midfielder Mark Walmsley, who had a tough battle with Adamstown's John McQuarrie, put a rising shot against the Rosebud crossbar.

But a minute later, the ball was in the Belmont-Swansea net when David Bock broke through the centre to give Connor no chance with a perfectly placed ground shot.

A fierce free kick by Warren Davies in the 24th minute put Adamstown two up by halftime.

In the 52nd minute, Peter Winsor looked set to

score, but Steve Dorman, in the Adamstown goal, made a great save and the chance was lost.

And worse was to come for the Belswans as hard working defender Slav Laszic attempted a back pass to Connor. The ball failed to carry to the keeper and McDonald had no trouble in finding the empty goal.

Laszic who appeared to be carrying an injury, left the field before the end.

Coach Greg Smith will be hoping the rugged defender will be fully fit for the do-or-die game against Austral United, the team with which Belmont-Swansea played a one-all draw in each of the two premiership rounds.

TOWNIES ARE CLUB CHAMPIONS

ADAMSTOWN Rosebud, the 1987 premier, added the club championship to its season's honours with an 18-point margin over Belmont-Swansea United, the premier-ship runner-up.

Adamstown finished

the premiership with a total of 186 points. Belmont-Swansea followed with 168. Then came West Wallsend 162, Austral United 155, Highfields Azzurri 143, Weston Bears 129, Cardiff 101, Lake Macquarie City 95, Wallsend 93, Central Coast 24.

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Paul Krestevski shines

BIG SEASON FOR ATTACKERS

BY DAVE WILLIAMS

IT'S usually easier to destroy rather than create, so defenders mostly have an advantage over attackers.

But in this season's Toohey's First Division premiership, attackers have won their share of the plaudits.

Players like Adamstown's John McQuarrie, Sean Ingham and David Bock; Peter Winsor, Dale Robertson and Ian Johns, of Belmont-Swansea United; the Highfields Azzurri "twins" Ross Wells and Renato Martinelli; Robert Holden and Wayne Bailey, of Austral United and Peter Budden, from Cardiff, just to name a few.

But one who appears to be capable of advancing further in the game than any of his contemporaries is the young Austral United midfielder-cum-winger, Paul Krstevski.

Paul has given some exciting performances this season and earned his place in the Northern NSW Youth team that played in the National Championship.

A natural left-side player, he is fast, skilful and can shoot. He runs upright so that he has good vision, finds a way through tackles when there appears to be none and wrong-footed defenders with apparent ease.

He had much to do with Austral United's victory over Highfields Azzurri in the minor semi-final and the best way to keep him in

check in next Sunday's final will be for the opposing team to make sure he gets only a very limited supply of the ball.



STEVE BLAND

ILLAWARRA
with
PHIL MURPHY

Fleming steers City home . . .

WOLVES MIGHT LOSE AFTER WIN

THE Wollongong Wolves are back in the West End National League but the club has been rocked by the news coach John Fleming may accept a lucrative offer to join another club.

Fleming will decide before the end of the week whether to accept the offer made by a State Bank League club late last week.

After his Wolves clinched promotion with a win over Manly at Wollongong Showground on Sunday, Fleming set off on a round of celebrations with his players.

Today he is expected to sit down with Wolves chairman Laurie Kelly and discuss his future.

Fleming said he hadn't really been giving next season too much thought when he received a phone call "out of the blue" asking if he was interested in switching clubs.

"I thought at first someone was having a joke but the offer is very attractive and I said I would give it serious thought," Fleming said.

"It is no secret in Wol-

longong my aim is to coach full-time one day and the Sydney offer could lead to this.

"I have always adopted a professional approach to my coaching and feel a lot of satisfaction after taking the Wolves back in to the big league."

Fleming would not reveal the identity of the club which approached him but did say it would surprise a few people.

He said the main deterrent to him at this stage was the travelling involved because he and his wife like living in Wollongong.

"I will have talks with Laurie Kelly about the Wollongong job and make my mind up as soon as possible," Fleming said.

"People probably think I am using the Sydney offer as a lever to get a good contract from the Wolves but the Wollongong board would not fall for some-

thing like that.

"I have been there for two years and they know how I work."

Wolves' secretary John Vlietstra said the directors are keen to have Fleming stay on.

"I had a chat with him recently but we both realised there could be no serious negotiations until we knew which league we would be playing in at the start of 1988, Vlietstra said.

If Fleming decides to sign up with the Wolves again he faces a hectic period strengthening his senior squad.

"If I stay on I will have to have new players and I think everyone at the club realises this," the coach said.

"The present squad have overcome a number of obstacles and showed plenty of character to win the State Bank League but we won't survive in the NSL unless we introduce new faces."

The Wolves' admini-

stration also has to move fast to re-structure their club for the move back in to the NSL.

One priority will be to ensure they retain their sponsorship from BHP Steel, which was \$30,000 this year.

The company stuck with the club despite the fact they were relegated in 1988 but it was unlikely the money would have been available if the team had stayed in the State competition.

Vlietstra said he is confident that by the time January 24 comes around the Wolves will have a competitive team and sound administration and back-ign to do well.

"The city will get behind us again now the top players in Australia are coming here every second week," he said.

"Wollongong has been one of the best soccer nurseries in Australia and our aim will always be to be in the top league available."

BALGOWNIE'S BAMPTON

WEST-Figtree pulled off a big Cup double when they beat giant-killers Balgownie 2-0 in the final of the Bampton Cup final at McLennan Park.

In the early game, Figtree beat Cringila by the same score to take the Youth Cup.

Both games were played in muddy conditions and Figtree blitzed Balgownie in the opening 20 minutes of the feature match.

The Young Balgownie side — with an average age of just 20 — didn't know what hit them as Figtree took full control of midfield and piled on the pressure.

Striker Dean Simpson set the trend for what was to follow when he sent in a lob from the left and struck the far post.

Balgownie managed to get the ball clear but weren't so fortunate soon after when a bad defensive error allowed Simpson to drive home a left foot shot from 12m.

Darren Nees made it 2-0 almost immediately after a Steve Hile corner and Balgownie looked to be in the big trouble.

SWAP-SHOP

THE coaching merry-go-round is already on the move and there will be big changes before the 1988 Premier League competition gets underway.

There have been unprecedented reports of coaches quitting jobs and the scramble for "positions" next season is on in earnest.

Even the successful clubs are involved with champions South Coast Croatia likely to be looking for someone to replace player-coach Neil Williams.

Williams' name has been linked with at least one other club and he has even hinted he might take a break from coaching and just play next year.

After five seasons with the highly successful Bulli club, Norm Flanagan seems certain to take up a new challenge.

Flanagan has led Bulli to three championship wins and one grand final success and will decide what to do in 1988 after the Ampol Cup inter-city series with Canberra.

At West-Figtree, the combination of Luke Robbaard and Phil Carr are rumoured to be leaving while the other semi-finalists, Cringila, may also have a new man in charge.

Col Owers, who took over Cringila this season at his first Premier League coaching appointment, has been offered at least one other position.

Owers' success in getting Cringila in to the top four hasn't gone unnoticed by other club officials and he could receive a few more phone calls in the next few weeks.

Robert Fryer, who left Aris last year to take over Port Kembla, will make the return trip for next season.

Aris have been relegated to First Division and Fryer will have the job of re-building the senior team and making sure they win promotion at their first attempt.

A disillusioned Gerry Walker is almost certain to quit Fernhill after four seasons. Walker was upset with the attitude of a number of players this year and the club could easily have been relegated.

Alfabb-Shellharbour will have a new coach with Les Sheedy, who was in charge this year, taking over as manager and promotions officer.

At Corrimal, Terry Hurley and Adrian Alston have indicated they might stay on despite the very real threat the club will drop back to First Division after finishing second-last.

Warilla Wanderers, Tarrawanna and Port Kembla are on the lookout for coaches while the only coach who can really sit down and plan for next season is Unanderra's Ron Sattin.



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Juventus	7	3	4 37 17 17
CCAE	6	3	5 26 22 15
Canberra City City	6	1	7 30 33 13
Concordia C'berra	6	2	6 28 41 14
Tuggeranong Utd	3	1	10 17 41 7
Narrabundah	0	0	14 10 72 0

SECOND DIVISION			
Canberra City	10	2	2 39 12 22
Weston Creek	11	1	2 53 19 28
ANU	6	3	5 30 23 15
Queanbeyan City	5	6	3 37 22 16
ADFA	5	3	6 24 26 18
Canberra United	5	2	7 31 44 12
International	2	3	9 20 46 7
Condors	1	2	11 20 62 4

THIRD DIVISION			
Goulburn "85"	11	2	1 43 15 25
Cooma	8	5	1 44 24 21
Tuggeranong Utd.	5	4	26 24 15
Dickson Old Boys	5	3	6 27 27 13
ANU	4	3	7 25 37 11
CCAE	3	5	6 18 31 11
RMC	3	3	8 26 35 9
Wanderers	2	4	8 20 36 8

FOURTH DIVISION			
Belconnen	13	2	4 72 32 28
Belwest	12	4	3 44 20 28
Tuggeranong Utd.	12	4	3 73 24 28
Canberra City	12	2	5 50 40 26
Belconnen Utd	10	2	6 51 30 22
Hawks	9	3	7 61 41 21
Nth Canberra Jets	10	0	8 56 28 20
RMC	7	3	8 37 41 17
Shadows	6	1	12 36 62 13
ADFA A	3	4	11 27 55 10
Latino-Americas	2	2	14 28 66 6
ADFA B	0	1	15 10 116 1

U/12 DIV.2			
Belwest	17	1	0 123 21 35
Monaro	13	1	4 52 22 27
Weston Creek	10	3	5 47 33 23
Tuggeranong United	10	1	7 53 35 21
Belconnen	10	1	7 37 27 21
Belconnen	10	1	7 36 26 21
Woden Melrose	9	1	8 54 37 19
Majura	4	0	14 12 50 8
Daramalan	1	2	15 10 65 4
St Edmunds	0	1	17 4 112 1

U/14 DIV.1			
St Edmunds	11	2	1 75 18 24
Weston Creek	12	0	2 67 19 24
Belconnen	8	2	4 36 18 18
Croatia Deakin	7	2	5 23 34 12
Monaro	5	2	7 27 34 12
Belconnen	4	1	9 23 37 9
Majura	2	1	11 19 51 5
Tuggeranong United	2	0	12 14 63 4

ROZIC ENJOYS CANBERRA TRIP

THE mid-season break in the NSL to allow for international matches was a disastrous experiment which should not be repeated, Sydney Croatia coach Vederan Rozic believes.

"It was almost like beginning all over again," he said in Canberra recently.

"We had the same early season problems of motivation and con-

centration after the break. "It took us some time to get back into our stride.

This is unfair to supporters and to the clubs striving for success."

Rozic found two diffi-

culties. His players who had been with the Soccerroos in matches against English champion club Everton and in the President's Cup competi-

tion in South Korea returned jaded and had difficulty readjusting to the league schedule, while those left behind had lost their competitive edge.

"I believe international matches of this nature have to be conducted outside the league program, either in midweek during the winter or in the summer months," he said.

On the subject of summer soccer, Rozic said all the ramifications had to be studied carefully.

"The soccer administrators are too eager to try everything - look at the way they want to move the start of next season into January because of the Olympic Games," he said.

"The first thing they have to realise is that summer soccer cannot be played during the day, so all clubs in the NSL must have floodlights."

He admitted that it would be impossible for Croatia to catch runaway leader Apia-Leichhardt in the games remaining.

"They are well ahead and looking very strong, but we will be playing until the last game," added Rozic.

"We have the Top Five competition to look forward to and are in the final of the Beach Fashions Cup against South Melbourne in October."

Asked about the successes in his team during the season he named Robbie Slater - "the best forward in Australia" - Wally Savor in defence and the allround skills of Zarko Odzakovic.

Rozic brought his full team to Canberra to play a friendly against Croatia Deakin recently on an otherwise blank weekend for both teams.

"It is a joy to play here," he said.

"Games between the two clubs are always enjoyable and excite a great deal of interest among the supporters.

"It would be good to see Canberra Griffins back in the NSL at some stage. They play skillful soccer and have excellent facilities."

FIFTH DIVISION			
Cooma	12	1	1 50 20 25
CCAE	11	1	2 44 22 23
Goulburn "85"	7	2	5 49 37 16
Tuggeranong Utd.	6	4	4 42 20 16
ANU	4	0	9 25 33 8
Wanderers	3	3	8 22 49 9
Dickson Old Boys	2	2	9 23 40 8
RMC	3	1	10 19 53 5

SIXTH DIVISION			
Weston Creek	17	1	1 82 22 35
Belconnen Utd	14	2	3 102 28 30
Belconnen	13	3	3 61 22 29
Nth C'berra Jets	9	4	6 51 32 22
Italo-Australia	9	3	7 49 42 21
Canberra City	9	4	6 40 44 22
Tuggeranong Utd.	7	4	8 54 42 18
ADFA	3	6	9 36 64 12
Condors	3	3	12 33 68 9
ANU	4	1	12 23 74 9
Latino-Americas	2	3	12 19 67 7
RMC	2	2	13 19 64 6

DIVISION ONE - RESERVES			
Belconnen Utd	13	0	1 54 20 26
Juventus	10	2	2 42 17 22
Croatia Deakin	10	1	3 51 20 21
CCAE	9	0	5 35 25 18
Narrabundah	4	1	9 10 40 9
Olympians	2	1	11 9 40 5
Concordia C'berra	2	1	10 12 39 7
Tuggeranong Utd.	2	0	12 16 31 4

DIVISION ONE - YOUTH			
Belconnen Utd	13	1	0 62 12 27
Croatia Deakin	10	2	2 41 14 22
CCAE	7	2	5 44 30 16
Juventus	6	4	4 37 22 16
Canberra City City	5	2	7 30 42 12
Narrabundah	4	0	10 22 53 8
Tuggeranong Utd.	4	0	10 21 45 8
Concordia C'berra	1	1	12 9 48 3

DIVISION TWO - RESERVES			
Weston Creek	10	4	0 50 17 24
Canberra City	10	2	2 36 13 22
ANU	10	2	0 54 12 22
ADFA	8	2	4 37 13 16
Condors	5	2	7 32 40 12
International	3	0	11 19 52 6
Queanbeyan City	2	0	12 14 50 4
Canberra Utd.	3	0	11 27 71 6

SECOND DIVISION - YOUTH			
Juventus	8	2	1 44 11 18
Belconnen Utd A	9	1	1 63 11 19
ADFA A	6	1	3 54 16 13
Inter-Monaro	4	1	7 21 45 9
Belconnen Utd B	4	3	5 55 26 11
Woden Valley	3	1	8 19 46 7
ADFA B	0	3	9 10 111 3

U/11 DIV.1			
Belconnen	12	3	1 30 4 27
Croatia Deakin	12	2	2 77 17 26
Belconnen	9	5	2 56 17 23
Weston Creek	10	2	4 48 23 32
Tuggeranong United	7	3	6 43 24 17
Belwest	3	5	8 14 39 11
Woden Melrose	5	1	10 32 74 11
Phillip	2	1	13 5 47 5
Monaro	0	2	14 14 84 2

U/11 DIV.2			
Belconnen B	12	6	0 46 10 30
Belconnen A	11	6	1 46 14 28
Belconnen	9	6	3 34 15 24
Tuggeranong United	7	6	5 30 14 20
Majura	8	2	8 36 24 18
Belwest	7	3	8 38 27 17
St Edmunds	6	4	8 36 24 16
Weston Creek	7	1	10 36 31 15
Woden Melrose	4	4	10 20 33 12
Woden Melrose	0	0	18 1 131 0

U/11 DIV.3			
Belconnen C	16	0	2 85 16 32
Blue Light	12	4	2 79 13 28
Belconnen A	13	1	4 87 20 27
Belconnen B	9	3	6 42 23 21
Tuggeranong United	8	3	7 27 39 19
Weston Creek	8	1	9 28 43 17
Belconnen	5	5	8 31 49 15
Marist	3	2	12 14 52 8
St Edmunds	2	2	14 10 75 6
Grammar	2	1	14 16 79 5

U/11 DIV.4			
Belwest	17	0	1 94 4 34
St John Vianney	15	1	2 80 22 31
Belconnen A	12	2	4 46 10 26
Belconnen C	9	4	5 51 36 22
Belconnen B	9	2	7 42 24 20
Tuggeranong United	6	2	10 14 36 14
Weston Creek	6	1	11 28 50 13
Belconnen	2	4	12 8 49 8
Majura	3	2	13 14 85 8
Marist	1	2	15 8 64 4

U/12 DIV.1			
Belconnen A	10	3	1 50 14 23
Croatia Deakin	10	2	2 53 19 22
Belconnen	8	3	3 39 29 19
Belconnen B	6	4	4 27 22 16
Tuggeranong United	7	1	6 36 26 15
Weston Creek	4	5	5 26 24 13
Marist	1	0	12 17 62 2
St Edmunds	0	0	13 8 50 0

HEYWOOD'S TUGGERANONG UPGRADING

"I'M not going to be the most liked man in the world after this, but it has to be done - it's part of the job."

Tuggeranong United player coach Ian Heywood was talking about his plan to turn the club from a semi-social team into a competitive force in ACT soccer - something he believes has to be done now if United is not to court disaster.

"Just look at the situation in the First Division at present," he said.

"The only two clubs who don't pay their players are ourselves and Narrabundah.

"Narrabundah are going to be relegated so where does that leave us?

On our way down next season unless we do something about it.

"This club has done nothing in the past few seasons except turn over players. We've had quantity rather than quality.

"There are a lot of people with us at the moment who are doing nothing other than clutter up the system. We are going to have to tell some of them that they won't be needed next year. It's not a nice job, but we can't afford to be just another social side any more.

"There'll be a few upset people around but if you play 22 a side there would always be a 23rd person who couldn't get in."

Heywood said more of the club's resources had to be concentrated on the first team, with other sides prepared to make sacrifices.

Two players who need not fear for their future are utility man Leo Kennedy and defender or midfielder Jimmy Baxter.

Heywood said: "Jimmy began the season as sweeper but I had to move him into the midfield. He's done a great job for us there, and what would we have done without Leo?

"He's helped us out at fullback, forward and in the midfield. Those two between them have held the side together.

"Since it became impossible to make the top four, I've been experimenting and players like Tony Merkel, Craig Russell, Nigel Bohm and Liam Smith are part of my plans for the future."

Heywood, who took over in mid-season after business commitments forced Mauro Baleri to step down, has already been reappointed for the 1988 season.

The former fulltime professional with Preston North End in the England Second Division signed for Canberra City in 1978 and later played for Inter Monaro and in Griffith before joining Kambah United, later to become Tuggeranong United.

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WA EMU EXPORT STATE SOCCER LEAGUE



STIRLING MACEDONIA UNBEATABLE

BY DAVID ANDREWS

STIRLING Macedonia are the WA State league champions of 1987.

With two rounds of the Emu Export competition still to be played, Macedonia have established an unbeatable seven points lead on the league ladder.

At the other end Osborne Park Galeb confirmed a spot in the second division.

Both features of the weekend were produced from one match with Macedonia ending Galeb's State League status with a 4-1 hammering at Galeb's won ground at the WA Yugoslav Club.

Galeb had flirted with relegation all season.

At times they seemed capable of avoiding the drop and in most of their matches competed effectively for half the game.

In fact against many of the favoured teams they matched them in the skill department.

But lack of fire power and the inability to concentrate in defence eventually led to their downfall.

For example in a match against Spearwood Dalmatinac they were on the verge of creating an upset, with newcomer Scott Nicholls causing all sorts of problems to Dalmatinac.

Then in one minute two open goals went begging that would have given Galeb a 3-2 lead.

Almost immediately Dalmatinac were 3-1 in front with a goal at the other end and Galeb collapsed to lose 5-1.

Out of Race

Whatever chance Perth Azzurri and Floreat Athena had of sneaking past Macedonia vanished on the weekend when both drew with Azzurri settling for a 1-1 with Dalmatinac.

Athena, who promised so much for long periods of the season, once again found struggling Balga difficult to contain and at the final whistle found themselves sharing the points after a 2-2 draw.

Macedonia won because they were able to win matches even when they were playing badly,

always a mark of a champion side.

The Macedonian leadership was not confident at the start of the season, suggesting that a minimum fourth placing would keep them happy in 1987.

Looking at their record of three titles in four years it was easy to understand their ambivalent attitude to success.

That they exceeded their wildest dreams in clear, and they have more glory to come if they can win the D'Orosgna Cup final against Floreat Athena in the next few weeks.

Changing coaches at the start of the season appears to have worked wonders with former Australian international Ray lott taking over the helm.

In addition they have managed to settle a volatile bunch of players into a compact unit.

Exports

They had lost striker Alan Pottier to Sydney, following in the footsteps of Ronnie Campbell to the National League in Melbourne the year before.

Late in the season they

BUT GALEB DOWN

lost striker Frank Bate who was the leading goalscorer at the time.

They stumbled unexpectedly to Inglewood Kiev three weeks ago, the only loss against a struggling side in the competition.

Players like big John Hunter have carried an enormous load, while the sudden re-emergence of Andy Sharp as an attacking midfielder has added much needed balance to the midfield.

The steadiness of midfielders Ross McGinn and Wayne Thorpe, the constant running of Carl McDarby in the second-half of the season and the calm leadership of Frank Clarke at the back has produced a champion team.

Giant goalkeeper Robert Zabica, still only 20 years old, has been nothing short of sensational.

All in all Macedonia deserved their championship, though there is plenty of evidence to suggest that strong looking clubs like Azzurri, Athena and Dal-

matinac threw away their chances with a number of mediocre efforts.

It must also be acknowledged that Azzurri and Dalmatinac suffered enormously with injuries and at times player disaffection that lead to transfers or flights back to Britain.

There is serious doubt that a top Four competition will be played this year which leaves the relegation battle the only area of interest.

Galeb have gone.

Now it rests between Balga, Kiev and Cockburn United as to who will fill the second spot.

Balga are in the hot seat and their only hope is to win their final two matches against Bayswater Inter and Cockburn.

At the same time either Cockburn or Kiev must lose both their games.

Still even this scenario may be academic with plans for a much reduced Super League on the drawing board for 1988.



Azzurri v Macedonia. Keith Blunt (left) and Craig Naven.



FRANK COLE (right) strides it out.

TASMANIA

BY WALTER PLESS

OLYMPIA-JUVE FINAL

OLYMPIA-WPL came back from 2-0 down to beat Croatia-Glenorchy 3-2 in extra time in the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy preliminary final in Southern Tasmania last Wednesday.

Nenad Zajec put Croatia ahead in the 18th minute with a simple but well taken goal.

Paul Furjanic's header from a Neil Thomas corner a minute earlier had brought out the best in Olympia goalkeeper Martin Burden, but he could only watch as Zajec side-footed the ball into the corner of the net from the edge of the penalty area after the Olympia defence had failed to clear a Croatia attack.

A bad foul by Olympia fullback Peter Sherman on Zajec in the 58th minute led to Croatia's second goal. After receiving the yellow card, Sherman retreated but could not cut out Colin Francis's free kick which found Peter Huigsloot and the lanky defender headed firmly past Burden to give Croatia what seemed to be an unassailable lead.

Olympia had other ideas, however, and Michael Berwick reduced the arrears for the League champion when he struck in the 72nd minute following a corner by player-coach, Ken Morton.

Billy Kirkpatrick headed inches wide for Croatia from Thomas's corner with four minutes left, but a controversial penalty a

minute from time saw the game go into extra time.

In the 89th minute, Nichols rounded Huigsloot and headed off towards goal, only to be brought down inside the penalty area.

After the match, Huigsloot was adamant that he had not touched Nichols and that the striker had "dived".

Paul Xanthopoulos had no qualms about taking the penalty, however, and promptly fired past goalkeeper Rodney Tattam to save Olympia's bacon.

Croatia was unlucky not to take the lead in the first period of extra time when Thomas shrugged off a ferocious tackle from one defender and rounded another before "scoring", only to see referee John Sly whistle for a foul and a Croatia free kick.

Olympia's winner came from Perry Forster in the 103rd minute. Alistair Payne failed to cut out a through-ball and Forster, quote shocked to find himself alone and in possession in front of goal, kept his head and fired past Tattam before running on and ushering the ball into the net.

The match ended with Tattam diving backwards to turn Nichols' long range drive against the crossbar.

Olympia meets Juventus-Pioneer (Wednesday) in the Grand Final.

Olympia-WFL 3 (Berwick, Xanthopoulos, pen, Forster) Croatia-Glenorchy 2 (Zajec, Huigsloot).

STATEWIDE HONOURS STAND

THE South and North of the State shared the spoils with four sides from each region progressing to the quarter-finals of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup after the weekend's second-round matches.

The easiest win of the day went to White Eagles which demolished the visiting Riversiders Olympic 8-0 at KGV Soccer Park.

Eagles rattled in seven goals in the opening half before turning in a dismal second-half performance in which an own-goal completed the scoring.

David Stoddart hit a hat-trick for Eagles, which led 4-0 by midfield through the first half, while goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud also got on the scoresheet by converting a penalty in the 38th minute.

One of the more surprising results was Ulverstone's narrow 1-0 win in extra-time over Rapid.

The Northern champion was expected to win comfortably against the Southern wooden-spooners but it took a goal by David Mitchell in the first period of extra-time to settle the issue.

Juventus-Pioneer pulled off an excellent result by winning 1-0 away against Devonport City, the solitary goal coming from 16-year-old Billy Stanford.

Stanford has been on the fringe of the Juventus

senior side for most of the season and his goal comes on top of a brilliant one he scored in the 4-3 win over White Eagles in the premierships decider a couple of weeks ago.

Cadbury State League champion Olympia-WPL did not have things all its own way at Somerset with the home-side breaching the visitor's defence twice before going down 4-2.

Things were much easier for Metro-Clairemont, however, who proved an ungrateful visitor by downing its host, Western Suburbs 5-1, at Brooks High School.

Launceston Juventus proved much too good for Croatia-Glenorchy, especially in the second half, and ran out a 2-1 winner in yesterday's main feature at KGV.

Croatia had 15-year-old Brett Williams in goal in place of the injured Rodney Tattam, and it was also without top striker Neil Thomas, although John McIntyre was back in the line-up.

Colin Francis was the pick of a Croatia side that held its own in the first half but goals by Colin Guest and Dennis within ten minutes of each other early in the second period killed off the Southerners.

McIntyre pulled a goal back from the penalty spot five minutes from the end but it would have been asking too much for Peter Savill's men to crumble at that stage.

EVEN

Nelson United put up a spirited performance against the visiting Launceston Matric to go down by only 2-1 at South Hobart.

Woods gave Nelson an early lead but goals by Hughes and Slessor saw the Northern effort victorious.

In yesterday's final tie, Caledonians squandered a 2-0 lead at the interval against the visiting Launceston City at South Hobart to go down 3-2.

Thornhill and Callaghan had given Calies its half-time lead before Farrell, Brian Davidson and Stillie struck back in the second half.

Bohemian Restaurant Invitation State-wide Cup — Somerset 2 Olympia WPL 4, Western Suburbs 1 Metro-Clairemont 5, Ulverstone 1 Rapid 0, Devonport City 0 Juventus-Pioneer 1, White Eagles 8 Riversiders Olympic 0, Croatia-Glenorchy 1, Nelson United 1 Launceston Matric 2, Caledonians 2 Launceston City 3.

Quarter-finals draw: Ulverstone v Launceston City, Launceston Matric v Juventus-Pioneer (Saturday, September 12); Metro-Clairemont v White Eagles, Olympia-WPL v Launceston Juventus (KGV, Sunday, September 13).

NORTHERN VICTORY

TWO controversial penalties, both converted by Colin Guest, gave Northern Tasmania a 2-1 win over Southern Tasmania in Sunday's intra-state clash at Devonport's Valley Road ground.

Northern Tasmania thus completed the double, having beaten the South 2-1 at KGV Soccer Park, in Glenorchy, earlier in the season.

An own goal in the 35th minute by the North's player-coach, Peter Savill, sent the Southerners in 1-0 up at the interval.

Southern goalkeeper Martin Burden's long kick upfield was headed into his own net by Savill while under pressure from Ian Parker and Perry Forster.

The match at this stage was a torrid affair with the tough midfield duel between the South's Australian Under-16 representative captain, Dominic Longo, and the North's Bob Stillie, being typical confrontations.

The North's equaliser came early in the second half when Sherman defender Peter Sherman was adjudged to have handled the ball while lying on the ground.

Colin Guest, the current holder of the Rothmans Gold Medal, made no mistake with his spot kick.

The winner, again by Guest and from the penalty spot, came 15 minutes from the end when Neil Connell, the South's re-

placement goalkeeper, was penalised for pushing Andy Scheibl as the two chased a loose ball.

"The penalties were absolutely ridiculous and I'm disgusted," said Southern coach, Ken Morton.

"We played all the soccer and dominated play for long periods and the two penalty decisions were absolutely diabolical."

"For a depleted squad, the players put in a marvellous effort and I've no complaints about the game in general."

"It's not sour grapes and I only wish there were more intra-State games like that."

The North's coach, Peter Savill, agreed that both penalties were dubious but said that his players showed a lot more character and the end result was fair.

"The South played hard, fast and well in the first half but our general team effort was better as we're not individuals," Savill said.

"I'd call both penalties dubious and agree that the referees are diabolical."

In the play-off for the Tasmania Reserve Premiership, Devonport City beat the visiting White Eagles 3-0 after leading by 2-0 at halftime.

North 2 (C Guest 2, penalties) South 1 (Savill own goal).

Tasmanian Reserve Premiership: Devonport City 3 (own goal, Guilbert, Miles) White Eagles 0.

STEVENSON THRIVES IN MELBOURNE



MIKE JOHNSON is a former English professional Soccer player. He played as full time professional with Doncaster Rovers, Brighton, Fulham and Newcastle United. He is an English Football Association coach. In Australia he has coached top teams — Sutherland, St George BSC, West Adelaide, APIA, Wollongong United (now Wollongong Macedonia) and Fairy Meadow in the NSW State League. His television series *The Basic Skills of Soccer* was shown for the first time in 1980 on ABC, concurrently with another television series of his, *Fitness for Sport*. His book *Fitness for Sport* won a quick acceptance among schools and junior clubs throughout Australia. He has had outstanding success coaching young players, many of whom have gone on to represent Australia at Soccer. He says that everyone of these players, despite their eventual success, was deficient in basic skills because of inadequate coaching in their early years, and that all of them would have been better players if they had developed good basic grounding of skill when they were young.

But, what about Charlie?

STUART Stevenson of South Melbourne will look back on 1987 with some relief following a good season in which he assumed the mantle of the club's number one striker.

After the disaster which he experienced during his stay at Sydney Olympic it has been a great comeback by Stevenson.

Whereas in Sydney with Olympic he had looked hesitant and rarely likely to score goals, his return to Melbourne has made him look a different player.

Especially has he looked so much sharper and fitter, hungry for running, competitive and aggressive.

In previous years the South Melbourne fans have looked toward Charlie Egan for goals, this year it has been Stuart Stevenson who has been the main provider.

Confidence is so important to strikers.

Stuart, back in the familiar setting of the Southern capital where he has lived for several years and where he has won acceptance as a player, once more finds he can score goals.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES IN NEW ZEALAND

THE Australian Universities team won two games, drew two and lost one in their tour of the South Island of New Zealand.

The first game was in Christchurch against a Canterbury Invitation XI, which included several National League players, and resulted in a 0-0 draw.

Two days later, on August 20, the Australian side drew 2-2 with a Canterbury University XI.

It was then down to Invercargill, when the team recorded a 1-0 win over a Southland FA team.

Next came the first of two tests, which was played in Dunedin on August 25. Despite some injuries the Australian Universities played above themselves to win 3-1, with goals from Dave Batten of Uruguay Penrith club in NSW and former Western Australian youth representative Tom Burk.

At this stage injuries really took their toll, and New Zealand came back to share the series as the result of a 2-1 win.

Australian coach Rob Harbour reckons that a 16-18 man squad will be required next time as better cover for injuries.

His recent goal against St George in Melbourne has given his club an outside chance of a place in the top five.

But what about Charlie Egan?

What has gone wrong there?

teams in 1987 are launching into all out attack, which may allow the striker to escape his marker as he is confused by the numbers around him.

In the National League today, support for front players is nowhere near

the incentive needs to be increased for a winning games or scoring goals

It is hard for strikers in Australia at the present time.

Most of them are man-to-man marked throughout the game.

With most teams using dual strikers up front, defences have taken to man-to-man marking them with a covering sweeper behind.

No matter where the striker goes he is tailed by his marker who is usually hand picked to combat his particular strengths.

Rarely, even in the penalty box, is the striker more than a foot or so away from his marker.

This makes it so much harder for strikers to score consistently, week in week out.

This problem is compounded by the fact that few National League

what is might be, so careful are teams not to get caught on the break.

Recently we discussed in this column the paucity of goals being scored generally in the league.

This, in the main, is because teams are not putting enough players into attacking positions throughout the game.

Around the Box

For goals to be scored regularly in Soccer the ball and players need to be constantly in and around the penalty area with players having many strikes at goal.

International statistics compiled over several years have proven that it takes some nine attempts at goal for a goal to be scored.

In some of our National League games there

GIBSON FORECASTS HIS COMEBACK

BY GRAHAM COOKE

FORMER Canberra City striker Ian Gibson is considering making a comeback for next season.

Gibson, who has not played since Canberra dipped out of the NSL at the end of 1986, said he had decided to take a year off after 16 consecutive seasons "to find out what life is like without soccer".

The answer was "quite enjoyable, but having had a rest I would like to get back into the game."

A teacher at Campbell High School, the man who scored 33 league and cup goals in his NSL career with Canberra said he would wait and see what the 1988 season brought.



NSL Action! South Melbourne striker STUART STEVENSON (right) beats St. George and Socceroo squad goalkeeper MIKE GIBSON at Middle Park

Photo — Les Shorrocks.

would not be nine attempts at goal in a game.

I have checked up on this statistic over the years and have found it to be surprisingly accurate.

Some games a team may score three goals from four strikes at goal, on what is a special day, but generally it does take nine attempts at goal to score a goal.

I am not talking about nine good goalscoring chances here. I am talking about nine strikes at goal

with head, foot, knees or whatever.

The strike may be from forty yards, or it may be from an acute angle virtually on the goal line.

The key is to have the ball and players in and around the penalty box as much as possible.

Of course, attacking, say with seven attackers against eight defenders can get very crowded with little space to get composed strikes at goal, whereas the defending

team can make a quick counter attack and find itself two versus three at the other end, with chances for an effective strike at goal much more likely.

That is one of the big problems today with teams not wanting to get caught that way on the counter attack.

Consequently they rarely go into all out attack.

The incentive for such attacks needs to be increased, with more points

for winning games, or more points for scoring goals, or both.

Certainly teams in our national league do seem to need the incentive to commit to all out attack much more than they are doing today.

Maybe then we will see more of the skills of the Charlie Egan, Graham Arnolds, Robbie Slaters and others who are able to excite and entertain with their ability in and around the penalty box.

GIVE WA A GO!

SAYS FRANK SCICLUNA

WEST Australia's determined bid for inclusion in next year's national league is one that must be given every possible chance to succeed.

There can be little argument that the NSL has been reduced to a competition that is national in name only. While other football codes are doing everything in their power to spread themselves across the continent, our's has been going in the opposite direction.

A Perth club in next year's league, together with the almost certain promotion of Wollongong, can only be good for the game and it's time that a number of small-thinking officials cast aside their parochial interests and considered the overall benefits to the code.

So often we pride ourselves in having the most international game of all yet we cannot rightly claim to have a truly national domestic league.

The large costs involved in flying teams from the Eastern states to Perth has always been a reasonable argument against West Australia's participa-

tion, but it is by no means an insurmountable problem.

Basketball and now Australian rules have both overcome this financial burden, with careful and far-sighted planning the NSL can surely do likewise.

One of the greatest difficulties faced by the league must be that of finding an acceptable method for Perth's participation without increasing the number of teams in the competition.

With a fair amount of goodwill and co-operation a solution can be found. Before the demise of Sydney City the league had decided on the bottom two teams this year being relegated, but when the Slickers folded it meant the survival of the second last team on the ladder.

Even though it's very late in the day perhaps the NSL could go back to its original proposal, relegate the two bottom teams and bring in Perth in a straight

swap for Sydney City.

One can quite easily sympathise with the protests that will be sure to come from whatever club is affected by the decision but after all, every team started the season in the knowledge that two clubs were in line for relegation at the end of the year.

This is where the game has to be put above narrow self interest, the simple truth is that a number of NSL clubs are gradually turning the league into a social rather than a professional competition.

Clubs that have been in existence for thirty or forty years are still plodding along on the support of barely a thousand followers with little potential of widening their market, playing on council grounds which are only suitable for amateur outfits.

These are not wildly exaggerated comments, sadly it is the reality of the depth that the National League has sunk to it 1987.

Committing football suicide is far from an easy task but if these clubs have the good of the game at heart they should graciously bow out of the league and make way for a professionally managed outfit which could take the code to new heights.

A team representing the West Coast of Australia would be like a breath of fresh air to a league that is suffocating in its own mediocrity.

The club that is big enough to recognise its own shortcomings and sacrifice its position for the sake of the game will earn the gratitude of all the fans who want to see the code prosper.

PHOTOS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
WEDDINGS, ENGAGEMENTS, PARTIES etc

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PANAGOPOULOS BROS.



AUSTRALIAN INDOOR PAGE



I SUGGEST to the thousands who, like myself, play and enjoy BOTH indoor and outdoor soccer that they should not in the least be concerned about last week's front page story in Australian Soccer Weekly.

In basic terms it is scare

tactics at best, and should there be any hassles the players concerned should contact the Australian Indoor Soccer Federation 02 771 1677.

The story headed "INDOOR CRACKDOWN" said...

"The ASF has made a move to exclude players operating under the in-

Johnny Warren comments on the out-door

"conflict"...

ternational body FIFUSA from competing in outdoor soccer in Australia.

"The crackdown emanates from FIFA, who have apparently decided that Australia will become the battleground for its long

term fight with FIFUSA".

Some basic facts on the indoor-outdoor issue will clarify the situation.

FIFA has no legal right to stop anyone playing indoor soccer any more than it has to stop outdoor players playing cricket, tennis or any other sport the individual wants to play.

There is no way FIFA or any one else for that matter is going to stop me playing and enjoying outdoor soccer with the Canberra City Old Boys and indoor soccer with the same team.

The only players who may be legally prevented from playing indoor are the contract NSL, State League players — and the reason here is risk of injury.

Indoor Soccer or Futsal is played in 56 countries where in most it is a major sport and none have the ridiculous indoor-outdoor conflict FIFA is trying to stage manage here.

World champions Brazil have 14.8 MILLION registered indoor players — all kids in Brazil are brought up on Indoor Soccer and that has included Rivelino.

Pele, Zico, or any other famous Brazilian outdoor star you like to name.

There is no conflict in Brazil — only Australia. The reason is simple.

Australia is staging the World Cup next year and FIFA through its world president Havelange is trying to settle an old score with his fellow Brazilian president of FIFUSA, D'Alessio and using Australia as the vehicle to do it — or try to do it.

Why not a show of

strength in Brazil, Argentina, Spain, Japan or any of the other 50 odd countries where there is absolutely no conflict.

Because it has no chance to succeed in these countries, as in fact it doesn't in Australia.

The ASF, which surely has enough problems of its own, is making a huge mistake if it takes of the fight on FIFA's behalf.

There is absolutely no confrontation tactics from the indoor movement but should any of their members be threatened they have a battery of lawyers ready to successfully defend any of its members.

Ideally indoor soccer is complementary to the outdoor game and provides the best skill developing training for our players.

I strongly advise players of both games to go on enjoying both games without fear of the incredible scare tactics being used by FIFA.

NOTE: The Australian World Cup squad for next year's World Cup is made up ENTIRELY of INDOOR players.

So in that case how can FIFA or the ASF ban something which is not theirs anyhow.

Parramatta Spartans 11 (Akkary 7, S.Duval, B.Duval, Speranza and Martinez).

Bundaberg Canecutters 2 (Trebbin 2).

at the Bundaberg Indoor Centre.

If little else, this performance by the Canecutters was a real improvement on last week debut but still the Bundaberg fellows don't seem to be up to the JHINSL standard required.

The 150 people at the match were left to marvel at the skills of the Parramatta Spartans and view a Bundaberg side that is gaining in experience and benefitting for it.

The touches of goal-machine Carlos Akkary and Hector Martinez were especially appreciated.

Despite copping an eleven goal pasting in 33 minutes the Canecutters never threw in the towel and responded in gutsy fashion twice in the closing stages.

But it was Akkary with the most dynamic finishing in the season so far who opened the night's proceedings in the first minute and followed up with three more before anyone else could get on the score-sheet. That was defender Frank Speranza in the 27th minute but Akkary was back at it a minute la-

ter and he was followed by Martinez 60 seconds on also.

To say it was panic stations for Bundaberg at this time is a gross understatement as the Duval brothers added the 10th and 11th goals three minutes either side of the half hour.

But Mike Trebbin grabbed a brace in the final half dozen minutes to lift the Bundaberg spirits just a bit.

Bundaberg Canecutters: Bert, Trebbin, Barone, Felesina, Giovannoni. Subs: Walk, Wilkinson, Hillox and Finger.

Parramatta Spartans: Musumeci, Akkary, Martinez, S.Duval, Speranza. Subs: B.Duval, Spirovski, Mourinho.

Best: 3 Carlos Akkary (PS) 2 Hector Martinez (PS) 1 Mike Trebbin (BC).

Gridline Eagles 9 (Filipovic 3, Nastovski 3, Blazic 2 and Antic 1).

Canberra Rockets 5 (Dukic 3, E.Maracic 1 and Vrkic 1).

at the AIS.

Certainly a disappointing result for the Rockets but one that saw the Gridline Eagles shoot to the top of the JHINSL.

Stirred on by the Radovan Filipovic the talented

Eagles line-up gave the home side little chance to get into the match despite a fine hat-trick by Stan Dukic, his second in three games.

But it was the build-up and audacity in the short-passing game that mesmerized the Rockets.

Filipovic himself banged his first hat-trick of the season and kept him near the top of the scorers list.

Vince Nastovski, who has suddenly burst into form also notched three whilst admirable support came from the likes of Zoran Blazic and Sesto Antic.

The win was a further encouragement for the Eagles and their showdown with champions Tornados in the very near future will be a sheer viewing delight.

Rockets: D.Maracic, E.Maracic, Dukic, Vrkic, Kyrgilis. Subs: Luftca, Purkovic and Saelgato.

Eagles: Curcic, Filipovic, Nastovski, Blazic, Antic. Subs: Milhalovic.

Best: 2 Radovan Filipovic (GE) 2 Stan Dukic (CR) 1 Vince Nastovski (GE) 1 Dragan Purkovic (CR).



LUCKY INTURRISI makes a save.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: From a leading ASF official on the outdoor v indoor beat-up while a VIP guest at last Saturday's Lotto All Stars v Perth Cougars James Hardie NISL match in Perth ... "I don't see what all the fuss is about ... this is not soccer, this is entertainment"...

GEELONG'S CC'S CATS

GEELONG has opened its campaign in the National League for the first time this season, following successful periods in the Victorian State League and the National Club Championships at the Australian Institute Of Sport in January.

It finished as runner-up in both competitions, and hopes to go one better in the National League.

Indoor Soccer claims to be the fastest growing sport in Australia and has attracted a wide audience through its exposure on SBS television.

The James Hardie National League matches will be televised and good performances by the CC's Cats could see players like Robbie Noggler, goalkeeper Lucky Inturrisi, captain/coach Steve Radojevic and youngsters like George Dimovski and Steve McAuliffe become household names before the year is out.

Nogger and Inturrisi have already represented Australia and they know that they have the skills to match the top indoor players in the country. This year the competition will become even fiercer.

CC's Cats will play its home games at the Corio Leisuretime Centre on a Saturday night or a Sunday starting from last Saturday.

On Sunday September 13 they meet Parramatta Spartans at home.

Prior to the National League matches there will be games between some of the best of Geelong's juniors, several of whom have played for Australia or Victoria, including Jason McAuliffe, Ross Hay, Michael Spasevski, Danny Saba and Kris Trajanovski.

The top Ladies game of the week in the local indoor league will also precede the main attraction.

Children under-12 will be admitted free and if they come in light soled runners they can take part in a penalty kick competition with great prizes. The Corio Leisuretime Centre will be the place to be next Sunday for the very best indoor soccer.



Robbie Noggler, star striker with the Geelong Indoor Soccer Team, the CC's Cats, shakes hands with Craig Elliott, Sales Manager for APD Snacks, as the James Hardie National Indoor Soccer League opens for business — PHOTOGRAPH: BRUCE LONG, THE GEELONG ADVERTISER.



Sydney Toyota Tornados' TREVOR ORMORD (right) battles with Virgilio Carvalho of Thomastown Twisties Crushers.

PACIFIC CUP EXCITEMENT ON SBS-TV

☆ Every Tues & Thurs 4pm

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The James Hardie National Indoor Soccer League

The James Hardie Indoor Soccer League by FRANK COLETTA.

Gridline Eagles 4 (Blazic 2, Filipovic and Nastovski).
Canberra Strikers 3 (Stewart 2 and Langone).
at the Dixon College, Canberra.

The large crowd at Dixon College were entertained to another exciting and in parts physical match as the visiting Gridline Eagles snuck home against an unlucky Canberra Strikers 4-3.

Canberra are at last starting to show signs of a more controlled game and proved the better side in the first half which offered much action but not too many clear-cut chances.

Strikers striker Billy Stewart grabbed two opportunist goals in the 12th and 17th minutes to give him a tally of six for the season and put his side on top.

But both goalkeepers were in sterling form and time and again both Goran Curcic and Terry Hays were diving at the feet of

onrushing forwards to save.

Once again the second half proved the Canberra Strikers' downfall as the Eagles fought their way back with Radovan 'Siska' Filipovic proving an excellent target man.

At 3-all through Blazic six minutes from time all looked set for a real battle to the siren. And so it proved as Vince Nastovski blasted in a shot in the 36th minute, further proving to Canberra that they must play out the entire 40 minutes rather than just half a game and fall away in the desperate final minutes.

Gridline Eagles: Curcic, Blazic, Nastovski, Antic, Filipovic. **Subs:** Rodic and Mihalovic.

Canberra Strikers: Hays, Tansey, Murray, Langone, Stewart. **Subs:** Turner, Crawford and Kanaridis.

Best: 2 Chris Tansey (CS) 1 each to Radovan Filipovic (GE), Goran

Curcic (GE), Terry Hays (CS), Billy Stewart (CS) and Oscar Langone (CS).

Parramatta Spartans 8 (Dameski 4, Spirovski 3 and Akkary).
Brisbane Bombers 4 (Wotherspoon 2, Barnard and Simpson).
at Carrara, Gold Coast.

The Spartans kept up their fine form during their Queensland exploits with an authoritative 8-4 beating of the Brisbane Bombers.

However they were forced to battle hard early on by an inspired Bombers side who took the lead at the four minute mark when Colin Simpson banged one in.

It was left to Carlos Akkary to reply seven minutes later but Ian Wotherspoon had the home side back ahead four minutes from the interval. An upset loomed likely as Wotherspoon smashed his second in the last minute of the first half and the Bombers held a healthy 3-1 advantage.

But with Peter Dameski driving them on the Spartans rallied strongly and it was 2-3 within a minute of the restart.

Sasha Spirovski took the field and charge and subsequently kept the roll going and a minute later the scores were level a 3-3. The Bombers by now were wilting under the onslaught and Dameski grabbed his second after 27 minutes. He and Spirovski then combined to slam in three quick goals inside three minutes and it was all over bar the shouting and token goals by Richie Barnard and Dameski a minute from time.

Spartans: Musumeci, Martinez, Akkary, Silva, Dameski. **Subs:** Spirovski and Speranza.

Bombers: Haozjusu, Simpson, Bearman, Wotherspoon, Barnard. **Subs:** McClure, Catakovic and Melville.

Best: 3 Peter Dameski (PS) 2 Sasha Spirovski

(PS) 1 Richie Barnard (BB).

Sydney Toyota Tornadoes 3 (Cassar 2 and Moon).
Thomastown Twisties Crushers 1 (Metaxas).
at Thomastown High.

Playing with an almost second-string side made up of the bare minimum six players, Sydney's Toyota Tornadoes did all but enough in disposing of Thomastown Twisties 3-1.

Led by the very much in-form new buy — Anthony Cassar and international Gill Tour the Tornadoes went rather through the motions against the Twisties.

Cassar put the visitors ahead early and grabbed the second soon after and another easy night seemed likely for the two-time champions. But John Metaxas threw a spanner-in-the-works just before the break when his direct kick-off from the Tornadoes' second goal zoomed straight in.

But in typical style the Sydneysiders fashioned the finish in superb style with a great goal. Tour sent a backheel to Cassar, who did likewise into the path of Leon Moon, the subsequent left foot drive screamed into the top corner.

The game erupted on occasions through the players questioning of the referee's decisions which left them more than a little bemused to say the least at the best of times.

The Tornadoes may well have had another two or three had it not been for the excellent glove-work of Dino Speziale in the Twisties goal. Sydney's skipper — Craig Carlisle was in equally brilliant form and denied the Crushers several times with fine blocks.

Audacious — that is the only real way to describe the Tornadoes' decision to leave the best part of their champion side out and in fact captain-coach Steve Knight omitted himself

from the starting line-up to go and spy on future opposition in another game!

Twisties: Speziale, F.Carvalho, Ribero, Metaxas, Ferreira. **Subs:** Papolazaro, V.Carvalho and Wondimu.

Tornadoes: Carlisle, Ormord, Tour, Cassar, Beck. **Sub:** Moon.

Best: 2 Dino Speziale (TT) 2 Craig Carlisle (ST) 1 Gilles Tour (ST) 1 Anthony Cassar (ST).

Sydney Toyota Tornadoes 7 (Cassar 2, Moon 2, Ormord, Beck, Knight).
Geelong CC's Cats 4 (Dimovski, Noggler, S.Radojevic, Ormord own goal).
at the Corio Leisuretime Centre, Geelong.

The experience and mobility of last year's JHNSL champions, Sydney Toyota Tornadoes proved too much for the Geelong CC's as the visitors took the inaugural match at the Corio Centre 7-4, in front of a crowd in excess of 300.

Mark Beck put the Sydneysiders ahead when he charged onto a through ball, which he appeared to handle, to drive the ball past Lucky Inturrisi. Anthony Cassar added a second shortly after with a shot which took a wicked deflection to give the half-time score of 2-0.

George Dimovski brought the crowd to its feet with a break on the left and a clever left-footed drive under the body of Australian keeper Craig Carlisle. A few minutes later Dimovski was dismissed after venting his frustration after being impeded.

Cassar was given room for a free header to extend the Tornadoes' lead and then captain-coach Steve Knight added another from a reverse pass as he raced down the right flank. Leon Moon came on to win the ball on the counter and once again give Inturrisi no chance. The Cats seemed down and out at this stage, but Trevor Ormord chipped his own keeper with a backpass and when the CC's received a free-kick for obstruction on the edge of the area, Robbie Noggler drove the ball in off the keeper.

Steve McAuliffe was playing a fine game at the back for the Cats, but as the team pressed forward he was left exposed. One interception resulted in a fierce drive by Ormord, which struck the bar and bounced down and into play, but the linesman ruled that it had crossed the line in its travel. The CC's continued to fight and when Noggler was felled on the edge of the area, the ball spun clear to Steve Radojevic who had it in the net quickly.

Just before the final siren, Leon Moon broke clear for Sydney to notch his side's seventh goal to complete a hard-fought



Sydney Tornadoes' GILLES TOUR goes past a Thomastown defender. Pic — Carmelo Bazzano.

victory.

The skills of Cassar and Gilles Tour were a delight to watch and their mobility kept the Cats on the defensive for much of the game.

CC's: Inturrisi, Dimovski, McAuliffe, Noggler, S.Radojevic. **Sub:** Brenelzeris, Marinovic and Ular.

Tornadoes: Carlisle, Knight, Ormord, Beck, Cassar. **Subs:** Tour, Moon.

Best: 3 Gilles Tour (ST) 2 Anthony Cassar (ST) 1 Robbie Noggler (GC).

Gridline Eagles 5 (Filipovic 2, Radosavljevic, Blazic and Nastovski).
Illawarra Stingers 4 (Bentocelli, Cloccl, Sola and Coelho).
at Wollongong Uni.

Gridline Eagles once again snuck in by the odd goal on their away travels when they pipped the Illawarra Stingers 5-4 at the Wollongong University.

The problem for most sides meeting the Eagles will undoubtedly be skilful midfielder Radovan Filipovic. He once again stole the show and the man of the match points. His brace of goals steadied the side although the Stingers can be considered unlucky not to have grabbed at least a draw.

For the home side Joe Coelho once again shone along with Klaus Wunchas and Nick Shute. Wunchas had the unenviable task of marking Filipovic and made a very good fist of it.

Eagles: Curcic, Nastovski, Blazic, Radosavljevic, Filipovic.

Stingers: Sales, Desousa, Bentocelli, Coelho, Wunchas. **Subs:** Cabanas, Bing-

ham, Cloccl, Montes, Lapin and Sola.

Best: 3 Radovan Filipovic (GE) 2 Joe Coelho (IS) 1 Zoran Blazic (GE).

Perth Cougars 4 (Antanasovskis 2, Roki and Kantor).
Lotto Allstars 4 (Ross 2, White and Dolton).
at Perry Lakes Basketball Centre.

The Cougars commenced the game rather tentatively in front of a magnificent 1300 crowd, who wondered if the excellent performances of the previous weeks ventures in Queensland could be repeated.

Two goals early in the game by John White and Phil Dolton of the Allstars had the home supporters subdued somewhat but replacement front-runner Richard Gaitan began to work some wonders and free-scoring Michael Roki made it 2-1.

Then Zoran Antanasovskis levelled and the crowd erupted.

Glen Ross put the visitors ahead twice in the second half but the Cougars fought back on each occasion through Antanasovskis and Tim Kantor.

The Allstars looked a well balanced outfit and Bruce Thurlow shone in goal. The Cougars however, could have won this one if they had been a bit more adventurous. The clash proved a great advertisement for the game in Perth, a credit to the players.

Best: 3 Bruce Thurlow (LA) 2 Zoran Antanasovskis (PC) 1 Glen Ross (LA).

The James Hardie Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GRIDLINE Eagles	5	4	1	0	29	18	9
PARRAMATTA Spartans	4	3	0	1	28	16	6
SYDNEY Tornadoes	3	3	0	0	14	6	6
PERTH Cougars	3	2	1	0	24	8	5
CANBERRA Rockets	3	2	0	1	21	17	4
THOMASTOWN Twisties	3	1	0	2	10	14	2
ILLAWARRA Stingers	3	1	0	2	15	21	2
LOTTO Allstars	2	0	1	1	5	8	1
GEELONG CC's Cats	3	0	1	2	11	16	1
CANBERRA Strikers	3	0	0	3	16	18	0
BRISBANE Bombers	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
BUNDABERG Canecutters	2	0	0	2	3	26	0

This weeks results

Gridline Eagles 5 Illawarra Stingers 4
Sydney Tornadoes 7 Geelong 4
Gridline Eagles 4 Canberra Strikers 3
Parramatta Spartans 11 Bundaberg C'cutters 2
Sydney Tornadoes 3 Thomastown Crushers 1
Parramatta Spartans 8 Brisbane Bombers 4
Gridline Eagles 9 Canberra Rockets 5
Perth Cougars 4 Lotto Allstars 4

NEXT WEEKS GAMES: Friday 11th September
Crushers v Geelong at Thomastown High

Saturday 12th September

Perth v Gridline at Perry Park Stadium

Crushers v Spartans at Thomastown High

Lotto v Rockets at Fairfield

Tornadoes v Strikers at Fairfield

Bundaberg v Illawarra at Bundaberg Centre

Sunday 13th September

Geelong v Spartans at Corio Leisure Centre

Lotto v Strikers at Fairfield

Tornadoes v Rockets at Fairfield

Brisbane v Illawarra at Chandler

JHNSL Top Scorers

The Sharpshooters

- 10 Carlos Akkary (Spartans)
- 9 Radovan Filipovic (Eagles)
- 8 Zoran Blazic (Eagles)
- 8 Stan Dukic (Rockets)
- 7 Emil Maracic (Rockets)
- 7 Michael Roki (Cougars)
- 6 Billy Stewart (Strikers)
- 6 Robbie Noggler (Cougars)
- 6 Vince Nastovski (Eagles)
- 6 Joe Coelho (Stingers)
- 6 Zoran Antanasovskis (Cougars)
- 5 Steve Knight (Tornadoes)
- 5 Max Bentocelli (Stingers)

Player Points Progress

- 9 — Radovan Filipovic (Eagles)
- 6 — Dragan Purkovic (Rockets)
- 4 — Gilles Tour (Tornadoes), Robbie Noggler (CC's), Michael Roki (Cougars), Stan Dukic (Rockets), Dino Speziale (Twisties), Joe Coelho (Stingers).



Parramatta Spartans' SASHA SPIROVSKI. Photo Michael Sara.

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SOME of the Sydney City boys who toured the USA and Europe in 1986. L to R: Scott Smith, Shaun Freestone, Shane Jarvis, Daryl Zeiderman, Matt Dihm, Martin Abi-Arrage.

SYDNEY CITY YOUTH ... THE END

SUNDAY 13th September 1987 at 6pm in the Hakoah Club's Monash Room will be the time and venue for the last official function of the Sydney City Youth League before its demise, and the presentation night for all those who have loyally stood by the club.

The 1987 season saw the boys starting out with great enthusiasm, however this was short-lived as their aspirations were dashed when the senior team folded.

Fortunately, the powers-that-be in the youth-league came to the sensible decision to allow Sydney City to play out the season, as the competition had already commenced. The management of Sydney City applauded this decision, even though it did present problems for them.

Firstly, there were a number of defections from the U/13 and U/14 teams which left the club short of players and therefore weaker in the competition, followed by the resignation of the U/13 coach.

With the boys realising they no longer had a future with Sydney City, the coaches' job of motivating them each week became that much harder, however motivate them they did.

The running of the Sydney City Youth League was left to Terry Stern and the hard working Judith Freestone, without whose

sterling efforts the club would not have lasted.

The Hakoah Club contributed extra money in excess of their normal sponsorship to ensure the Sydney City Youth League would be able to meet all financial commitments for the season, and they are to be thanked for this.

The U/13 team were probably hit the hardest as they lost a number of talented players and their coach, Peter Evans, stepped into the breach and is to be commended for the remarkable job he did both in coaching and motivating the boys.

Many a week the team took the field with only the bare 11 players, on one occasion they had to start with only nine boys. They are to be congratulated for their courage and sportsmanship, turning up each week to play against much stronger teams, and doing so so willingly.

Keith Jones, well remembered for his playing days with Sydney City, coached the U/14 team - a team which also lost a number of players includ-

ing their only goalkeeper. Despite these problems, Keith managed to instill in the boys a good style of soccer. Again, having only the bare eleven each week, the boys were still unlucky in not finishing higher up the table.

The U/16 team, ably coached by Gary Borredale, had a good season, narrowly missing out on the top four. Had luck gone their way in a few games, they certainly would have been in the playoffs.

Gary can be proud of the enthusiasm and determination he instilled in his boys, who gave their all each and every week for their coach.

The greatest success of the season was the U/15 team, who, under coach John Doyle, managed to come in equal first, in what proved to be the closest competition for some time.

John's teaching to the boys of his special skills paid off; in the second round the team went through undefeated, and were especially elated with their wins over Marconi and Olympic.

Two boys from this team made the State U/14 team, Shane Jarvis and Matt Dihm, whilst Patrick Bradley was selected in the State U/15 team, quite an achievement.

Other talented players, Simon Beaufils and Shaun Freestone being two who come to mind, were overlooked by the selectors,

and we are sure the future will show up what we believe are great flaws in the present selection system.

Both Patrick and Simon are going to England in January 1988 to trial with English clubs, a great compliment to both boys skills.

This particular team has decided they, together with coach John Doyle, would like to stay together as a team.

They realise this will have to be with another club, and they they will have to trial for this new club. But their skill as proven over the years should prove attractive to any other club and hopefully the majority of them would make the one team.

Sydney City Youth officials are presently talking to several clubs who are interested in our club recommending that our players sign up with them for the 1988 season.

Where the boys go, the hardworking officials go, and we are doing our best to ensure these boys have a great future in the sport.

At the presentation night an announcement will be made recommending which club we feel the players should affiliate with.

KIRWAN COMES TO RESCUE

PAUL KIRWAN scored from his second penalty attempt to give Wollongong Macedonia a hard fought 2-1 victory over Warringah Freshwater and spark celebrations which went till the small hours of Monday for the locals.

Wollongong needed to win against Freshwater to at least ensure a play-off situation in the relegation battle with two other clubs.

Almost 2,000 spectators filled Kelly Park in anticipation following Macedonia's success against Rockdale's linden last Wednesday night. And they were not disappointed.

Stuart Cleary netted for Warringah after 25 minutes following some good work by Stuart Porter and the sides went off at half time with the visitors holding that slender lead.

Cane Popovski equalised in the 64th. Paul Giraldi took a corner and Popovski was on target with his header.

Only a few minutes later Popovski was replaced by Kirwan and some complaints from the vocal crowd were hushed as Kirwan lined up his penalty shot after Allport was brought down inside the area.

Keith Warren saved the first shot but was adjudged to have moved before the kick was taken and Kirwan made no mistake with his second shot to end a period of frustration for the locals.

The home team defended well in the closing stages to earn a hard fought win.

Only a kilometre away Manly was being thumped by Wollongong City to the tune of 6-0,



WILLIE WALLACE, camp director at the University of New England at Armidale, watches as a group of youngsters join in the celebrations. The Adidas National Soccer Camp will be held from January 10/16 next. Applications close on October 31 and should be addressed to National Sports Camps, University of New England, Armidale 2351. Tel (067) 72 8811.

Sydney City has had a long and distinguished history, and whilst the name will disappear from Youth and Senior soccer, the club and the people who have participated within the club will have left an indelible mark on the code.

It is hoped that the boys who went through the ranks benefited from their experience. All those coaches, managers and administrators can sit back and take pride in what they achieved.

It is hoped that all the Sydney City youth boys, parents and friends will come along to the presentation night, when the final curtain will come

down. To all the boys and people connected with Sydney City Youth League, best wishes for the future.

— STEVEN SERDA

**STEVE DARBY'S
FITNESS FOR SOCCER
will resume shortly**

YOUNG JUNIOR TEAM OR CLUB

PICTURES, STORIES on the Season's operations of your junior team or club, or school team. Also local Premier League and player features. Send them to ASW P.O. Box 406, Broadway NSW 2007. Remember, we want to involve every state, city and country alike.

NSW THIRD DIVISION

BY WES SAWINA

CAMPBELLTOWN'S late charge for a semi-final berth ended when they were held to a 2-2 draw by Concordia.

Bondi surprised University by taking a point in a tense match at Little Bay, leaving second spot in the premiership undecided.

The deferred West United-King Tomislav fixture to be played on Wednesday evening at the Croatia Sportsground takes on a new air of importance as a West's win will give them second place and promotion.

Rooty Hill wrapped up the club championship at Cawarra with all three grades making the finals. Their clash with West over the weekend turned out to

be a thriller.

With plenty at stake, both sides produced top form to entertain a good sized crowd.

The match started at a furious pace with Wests shaking the woodwork after only one minute.

However as the game unfolded both sides created opportunities with sweeping passing movements, only to be denied by great defensive work at both ends.

Pearson put Wests in the lead in the 37th minute, finishing off a slick move involving Tracey and Sharpe.

With Wests holding a slight territorial advantage the goal looked to be enough for the visitors to go into the break one up.

However in the 44th minute, Guy produced a sizzling run down the right be-

fore slipping a cross to the unmarked Connolly who levelled the scores.

Just 60 seconds later an almost identical move saw Connolly climb high to put Hill into the lead, again off Guy's cross.

The second session proved to be a nailbiting affair for supporters of both sides as Wests camped in Hill's half for long periods in search of the equaliser.

Despite a number of anxious moments Hill's defence held firm, soaking up the pressure before producing counter-attacking movements which stretched the over-committed Wests defence to the limit.

Hill's win leaves Rooty Hill, West United, University of NSW and Granville Chile to fight out the finals series commencing this weekend.

SOCCERWORDS N° 1 ANSWER



The NSW Amateur Federation

Supporting 130,000 players in the State

RUSHY'S CORNER

LAMBERT PARK FOR GRAND FINALS

THE Youth League finals series continued to produce plenty of drama and again a number of teams managed to pull off wins in the dying seconds.

The Grand Finals are to be played this Saturday at Lambert Park.

Sydney Olympic will play Marconi in both the under 13s and under 15s and I feel that Olympic should win the younger clash provided they can tighten their defence. However the 15s game is much closer and Marconi must be considered favourites as they have not lost to Olympic this year. Even so provided that all the Olympic players are fit I think they may just edge Marconi out.

Southern Districts looked impressive against Macarthur in their semi-final clash. Nevertheless I feel that APIA will prove too strong for them when it comes to the crunch.

The under-16 final should be a tremendous end to

the day, and Croatia fans should not be dispirited by the size of Blacktown City's win over St George as the Saints allowed the first two goals to be scored through poor defence and should have had at least two in the net themselves.

Blacktown will find Croatia a lot stronger team physically than St George and will need to show great character to defeat them.

Last weekend, Croatia did what Blacktown has failed to do this year by defeating Marconi.

I tip Blacktown City to win a close match and I am looking forward to what should be a tremendous battle.

Congratulations to the Sutherland Association on the presentation of the ground at Bates Drive as well as the superb facilities which they have available.

Sutherland obviously approach the game with a lot of professionalism and this is indicated by the relining of the ground in between the under 14 and 15 matches.

Unfortunately at Youth League level, there are only a few Associations who show any professionalism at all.



IN 1984, Goulburn first decided to move from the local Association to build a future in the ACT.

So in 1985 Garry McCarthy and Frank Weir banded together to form Goulburn '85.

They won their grade and gained promotion. This year the teams played in the ACT Third and Fifth Divisions.

They are seeking promotion to ACT Second Division, with the aim of reaching First Division. The club is sponsored by Motorways, Goulburn Selection Fruit Markets and the Empire Hotel.

The players are: L to R: Tony Coleman, Doug McKenzie, Frank Weir, Dave Turner, Kevin Cooper, Steven Seller, Shane Hall. Front row: Paul Withers, Wayne Kimber, Mick Speers, Peter Pulcini, Con Toparis. Absent: Bob Wilcox, Mick Lowry.

YOUTH LEAGUE REPORTS SEMI FINALS 5.9.87

U13s

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 5 CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 4

AFTER Sydney Olympic led 3-1 at halftime and 4-1 with only 10 minutes remaining, Canterbury staged a remarkable comeback to level the scores with goals to Steve Christiforides, Zoran Draca and Christiforides yet again.

Canterbury scored their three goals within a four minute period and had the match gone into extra time may well have run away with the game.

GLADESVILLE HORNSBY U12 REPS

THIS team has had a most successful season playing 22 competition matches (Centenary Cup and Metropolitan Reps) losing only four and finishing just behind second place in the Metropolitan Representatives.

Main scorers were Bryan Raeburn, Scott Tarant and Shane Johnson.

The midfield comprised of Brad McDonnell, Senol Sertbas, Matthew Thiele, Anthony Booth and Mark Pittorino. Their contribution was the quality balls which were played to the forwards and the pressure they took off defence.

The defence in Met Reps, which never conceded more than two goals in any match, consisted of Leigh Hudson, Shane Coombes, Michael Cooper, Wayne Smith and David Evans.

Goalkeepers were Mike Taylor and Peter Forrest.

All the boys have enjoyed their season and are looking forward to the Youth League next year.

Coaching was in the hands of Ray Thompson, whilst Anne McDonnell managed the squad.

However it was not to be, and with only three seconds remaining, Olympic striker Andrew Pettas sent the crowd into hysteria when he controlled well inside the box before superbly placing the ball into the back of the net.

If this much excitement could be reproduced each week in the National League we would not have grounds large enough to contain the crowds.

SCORERS: Sydney Olympic: Andrew Pettas 1, Frank Serrate 3, Nick Zorbas 1. Canterbury Marrickville: Lambros Proutsos 1, Steve Christiforides 2, Zoran Draca 1.

U14s SOUTHERN DISTRICTS 3 MACARTHUR 0

GEORGE Baldack opened the scoring after only 60 seconds for Southern Districts by swooping on an awkwardly bouncing ball which had eluded the Macarthur keeper.

Macarthur fought hard to regain composure, but were kept scoreless by some athletic keeping by Rodrigo Rodriguez.

The second half degenerated as a spectacle as Southern worked hard to defend their slender lead.

The hard work paid off as, after a tremendous build-up on the right, Southern increased their lead in the 47th minute when Barton Lacroix crossed the ball which was deflected into the goal by a hapless Macarthur defender.

Southern cemented their position in the Grand Final by scoring their third from a Pablo Capdevila corner which was deflected in by Christian Saladarrie.

In the other semi-final at Knights Park, Croatia took APIA into extra time before the Italian team managed to avert the dreaded penalties by scoring and leaving the field 1-0 victors.

U15s SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 MELITA 0

WITH only a minute remaining in extra time and the crowd readying themselves for a penalty shootout, David Seale pounced on a loose ball and did not miss from three metres to give Olympic a 1-0 victory.

Melita were the first team to find the back of the net after only five minutes. Disappointment followed as a player was ruled offside.

Yet another opportunity was denied Melita in the 48th minute when they received a free kick just off centre on the edge of the box.

The Olympic wall appeared to be one man short and goalkeeper Jason Vickery found himself having to guard the majority off the goal.

Melita's shot beat the keeper and was certain to go in at the far post before it was cleared off the line by a desperate Olympic defender.

Olympic however were finishing the stronger of the two squads and after a number of near misses George Pappas was brought down inside the area.

From the resulting penalty the Melita keeper appeared to dive well before the kick was taken. However the penalty taker was unable to change the direction of his shot and the keeper pulled off a good save to keep his team in the match and take Olympic into extra time.

Extra time saw end to end football which delighted the large crowd, although both keepers did very well to keep the opposition scoreless.

Penalties looked imminent. However Seale,

who had missed with a number of earlier shots, swooped on a loose ball to win the match and put Olympic into the Grand Final against Marconi, who had defeated Sydney City 1-0.

U16s BLACKTOWN CITY 4 ST GEORGE 0

BLACKTOWN City put in a powerful performance against St George to defeat them 4-0.

Blacktown scored in the 21st minute after a cross from Danny Lemos found Ronny Heaps who had plenty of time to pick his spot and made no mistake blasting his shot into the top of the net.

Two minutes later Blacktown went further ahead as Nathan Newham swung a low cross from Andrew Charlwood past a diving keeper.

The second half saw St George come out desperate to level and they nearly scored when a thunderbolt shot was brilliantly touched over by keeper Terry Ide.

Again Saints should have scored in the 44th minute when a free kick just outside the box on the goal line was driven across the face, however the St George shot was blasted over the top of an open goal from only three metres.

St George in desperation pushed players forward and this opened the way for Blacktown to add to the score.

A Heaps free kick in the 50th was whipped across the goal and found Charlwood well positioned to head home.

The fourth came late in the match and was nicely slotted away by Adam Leatherbarrow.

SCORERS: Ronny Heaps, Nathan Newham, Andrew Charlwood, Adam Leatherbarrow.

NSW YOUTH LEAGUE

Q Final Results

UNDER 13s: SYDNEY OLYMPIC 5 CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 4, MARCONI 2 APIA 1

UNDER 14s: SOUTHERN DISTRICTS 3 MACARTHUR 0, APIA 1 CROATIA 0 aet.

UNDER 15s: SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 MELITA 0 aet., MARCONI 1 SYDNEY CITY 0

UNDER 16s: BLACKTOWN CITY 4 ST GEORGE 0, CROATIA 1 MARCONI 0.

NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

ON the long weekend of October 3/5, State Championships will be played at Valentine Park in the under 14, 15 and 16 age groups.

The Championships will be played as a round robin tournament between six teams, the two Grand Finalists from the Sydney Youth League, as well as one team from Northern, Western, Southern and Riverina in each age group.

The under 13s will be travelling to Parkes.

This Sunday sees the first round of the State wide Champions of Champions competition being played.

The Quarter-finals will be played on 27.9.87, Semi-finals on 11.10.87 and the finals will be played on Sunday 18th October at Valentine Park.

As reported a couple of weeks ago in the A.S.W., one of the under 12s matches will be played between State League finals at the Parramatta Stadium.

YOUTH LEAGUE GRAND FINALS

To be played at Lambert Park, Saturday Sept 12.

U13 10am Sydney Olympic vs Marconi

U14 11.45am Southern Districts vs APIA

U15 1.15pm Sydney Olympic vs Marconi

U16 3pm Blacktown City vs Croatia
(NEXT WEEK — FINAL YOUTH LEAGUE TABLES)

METROPOLITAN REPRESENTATIVES

	U12	U11
Illawarra v Nepean	5-1	
South & East v Gladesville	2-2	1-2
Granville v Manly	2-0	
South Dists v Sutherland	2-0	2-0
Macarthur v Canterbury	1-2	8-1
Bankstown v Blacktown	2-2	3-0
St George v Central Coast		washed out

NSW COACHES ASSN INDOOR SOCCER COMPETITION

At Valentine Park

U14, 16 and all age starts 12/10/87.

Registrations close 2/10/87.

For more information please phone Ian Marriott

651 1032 or Vince Balzan
639 1093

NSW AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION

Applications are invited for the positions of coach, manager and trainer for the 1988 Under 13 NSW state team.

Applications should be made in writing, stating qualifications and previous experience, to:

MRS FLORENCE STEPHENSON
SECRETARY,
482 MEURANTS LANE
PARKLEA

Applications close 14.9.87

ORDER ASW AT YOUR NEWSAGENT FOR ALL YOUR SOCCER NEEDS

NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE BANK SOCCER LEAGUE

	1st	2nd
Canterbury Marr v Manly Warringah	2-1	2-2
Inter Monaro v Ku-ring-gai	1-0	2-3
Wollongong City v Manly Warr.	6-0	4-1
Sutherland Shire v Uruguayan Pen.	1-0	1-1
Warringah F/Water v Wollongong Mac	1-2	1-2
Blacktown City v Canberra City	0-2	5-0
Melita Eagles v Cant. Marrick	4-1	1-0
Newcastle v Rockdale	1-9	1-1
Melita Eagles v Ku-ring-gai	3-0	3-1

STATE LEAGUE 2ND DIV

Campbelltown City v Queens Park	2-1	0-1
Nth Syd Artamon v Bathurst	0-1	3-1
Kingsford v Nth Bankstown	0-0	2-1
Kingsford v Sydney Maccabi	1-0	4-0
Avala v Dee Why Swans	5-0	3-1
Gladesville Hby v SSC Yugal	2-1	2-1
Nth Bankstown v Fairy Meadow	0-1	2-0
Blacktown United v Polonia	1-1	1-4

STATE LEAGUE 3RD DIV

Moorebank v Nth Ryde RSL	1-1	5-1
Bondi Marine v Mt Druitt	0-2	4-1
Canterbury v Baulkham Hills	3-1	1-2
Uni of NSW v King Tomislav	1-0	3-0
Granville Chile v Port Hacking	2-0	1-2
Rooty Hill v West United	2-1	3-3
Concordia v Campbelltown	2-2	1-5
Uni of NSW v Bondi Marines	1-1	1-0

INTER URBAN 1ST DIV

West St George v Rosebery	1-4	1-1
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INTER URBAN 2ND DIVISION

Macquarie Uni v Haberfield	1-1	NP
CSI Schofields v Concord Jun	0-4	0-0
CSI Schofields v Welcome Sports	1-2	2-1
Wenty Waratah v Concord Juniors	0-0	0-3

INTER URBAN 3RD DIVISION

Castle Hill v Murray Farm	NP	NP
Macedonia v Blacktown	2-1	0-0
Lithgow Workmens v Murray Farm	4-0	1-1
Blacktown Wands v Argentinian	11-0	6-0
Crescent Star v Colo Colo	5-2	3-2
Murray Farm v Cyprus	0-2	0-2

INTER URBAN 4TH DIVISION

Chullora v Alexander	1-4	0-5
Greystanes v Cobreloa	0-0	1-1
Heilias v Liverpool Oly	4-2	4-0
Alexander v Prospect United	0-0	2-4
Mt Pritchard v Orange Waratah	0-1	2-2

STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 GR 1

Polonia	24 19 5 0 78 21 43
F Mead	24 14 5 5 55 27 33
NB'stown	23 13 6 4 41 25 32
Yugal	23 11 6 7 43 36 28
Kingsford	22 12 3 7 33 21 27
Bl'own U	23 11 3 9 36 32 25
Gl'ville H	24 11 3 10 34 35 25
Avala	24 8 8 8 43 38 24
Queens Pk	23 8 3 12 26 40 19
Artamon	24 9 14 14 37 56 19
Sy Maccabi	23 7 5 11 31 49 19
Bath 75	24 7 3 14 28 41 17
DWS	24 2 5 17 19 49 9
Cam'town	23 2 4 17 15 50 8

STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 GR 2

Polonia	23 17 3 3 76 24 34
Kingsford	22 15 4 3 74 21 37
Gl'ville-H	24 14 6 4 67 24 34
Avala	24 14 6 4 65 31 32
Blacktown	23 13 3 7 47 40 29
Yugal	23 13 2 8 58 30 28
N Bankstown	23 12 4 7 45 34 28
C'belltown C	23 10 3 10 45 40 23
Bathurst	24 8 6 10 38 43 22
Q Park	22 8 5 9 24 28 21
Nth Syd Art	24 7 3 14 44 51 17
Dee Why S	24 5 1 18 20 81 1
Fairy Mead	24 1 4 19 31 96 6
S Maccabi	23 1 2 20 13 84 4

STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 GR 3

NB'stown	23 18 4 1 71 9 40
Kingsford	23 17 4 2 74 12 38
Yugal	23 16 2 5 74 20 34
Q P	23 14 3 5 68 17 31
Cam'town	23 13 5 6 60 23 31
Avala	24 12 7 5 56 28 31
Polonia	23 12 3 8 48 34 27
Gl'ville H	24 11 2 11 48 36 24
Bathurst 75	24 10 2 12 41 32 22
Dee Why S	24 7 3 14 24 49 17
Fairy Mead	24 6 2 16 32 56 14
Bl'own U	23 5 1 17 20 61 11
Syd. Macc	24 1 2 21 6 107 4
N Sydney Art	24 1 2 21 8 126 4

STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 GR 1

G-Chile	25 15 6 4 68 20 36
Uni of NSW	24 15 2 6 47 27 32
Rooty Hill	25 13 5 7 51 27 31
West U	23 14 3 6 50 27 31
Mt Druitt	25 9 11 5 26 15 29
C'belltown	24 9 10 5 41 25 28
Concordia	24 10 4 10 42 39 24
PI Hacking	24 11 1 12 36 44 23
Bondi-Mar	24 7 5 11 39 37 20
Baulk Hills	24 8 4 12 34 39 20
K. Tomislav	23 8 4 11 39 60 20
Moorebank	23 4 10 9 24 31 18
Canterbury	25 6 4 15 27 18 16
Nth Ryde	25 3 4 18 18 71 10

STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 GR 2

Rooty Hill	25 18 6 1 90 26 42
C'belltown	24 16 7 1 51 18 39
Baulk Hills	24 17 3 4 72 30 37
Bondi Mar	24 12 5 7 45 34 29
Moorebank	23 12 4 7 53 30 28
West Uld	23 10 8 5 50 29 28
N Ryde	25 12 3 10 61 42 27
G-Chile	25 8 5 12 46 47 21
K. Tomislav	23 7 5 11 28 46 19
Mt Druitt	25 6 6 13 39 64 18
Uni NSW	24 3 15 30 59 15
PI Hacking	24 5 4 15 28 60 14
Canterbury	25 6 1 18 32 78 13
Concordia	24 3 2 19 14 77 8

STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 GR 3

Baulk Hills	24 17 6 1 90 26 42
Bondi Mar	24 16 8 0 54 21 40
Mt Druitt	24 14 8 3 43 18 36
Rooty Hill	24 13 5 6 59 37 31
West Uld	23 12 4 7 44 26 28
K. Tomislav	23 7 10 6 27 25 24
Canterbury	25 9 4 12 26 33 22
PI Hacking	23 7 7 9 22 33 21

VICTORIA

STATE LEAGUE FIRST

St Albans 0 Thomastown 2, Caulfield City 1
Box Hill 1, Frankston Pines 0 Maribymong 4,
Croudon City 4 Northcote City 1, Broad-
meadows 0 Springvale City 2, Fawkner 1
Morwell Falcons 0, Western Suburbs bye,
Green Gully 2 Oakleigh 2

RESERVES

St Albans 1 Thomastown 4, Caulfield City 2
box Hill 1, Frankston Pines 1 Maribymong 3,
Croydon City 2 Northcote City 1, Broad-
meadows 4 Springvale City 2, Fawkner 1 Mor-
well Falcons 1, Western Suburbs bye, Green
Gully 3 Oakleigh 2

VIC 1 FIRST

Doncaster Rvrs 1 Essendon City 2, Mel-
bourne 0 Ringwood City 2, Altona Gate 0
Nunawading City 0, Knox City 3 Richmond 0,
Nth Dandenong 1 Albion Rvrs 1, Bulleen 4
SM Mordialloc 0, Werribee 2 Sunbury Utd 2

RESERVES

Doncaster Rvrs 0 Essendon City 3, Mel-
bourne 0 Ringwood City 2, Altona Gate 4
Nunawading City 1, Knox City 1 Richmond 3,
Nth Dandenong 4 Albion 0, Bulleen 1 SM
Mordialloc 0, Werribee 2 Sunbury Utd 1

VIC 2 FIRST

Clifton Hill 2 Eltham 3, Westgate 2
Moorebank 1, Altona City 2 Doveton 1,
Waverley City 2 Mornington 1, Dandenong
City 0 Nth Geelong 0, Hamlyn Rvrs 1 Prahran
City 1, Sandringham 2 Ringwood United 1

RESERVES

Clifton Hill 3 Eltham 0, Westgate 1
Moorebank 0, Altona City 0 Doveton 2,
Waverley City 4 Mornington 0, Dandenong
City 1 Nth Geelong 0, Hamlyn Rvrs 0 Prahran
City 1, Sandringham 1 Ringwood United 0

VIC 3 FIRST

Port Melbourne 1 Clarinda 1, Moorabbin
City 2 Geelong 3, Moreland Pk Rgr 1 Corio/
Geelong 4, Keilor 2 Rosanna 1, Bell Park 2
Springvale Utd 0, F.T. Gully bye, Yallourn 1
West Brunswick 1

RESERVES

Port Melbourne 0 Clarinda 3, Moorabbin
City 8 Geelong 0, Moreland Pk Rgr 4 Corio/
Geelong 1, Keilor 2 Rosanna 1, Bell Park 2
Springvale Utd 1, F.T. Gully bye, Yallourn 2
West Brunswick 0

VIC 4 FIRST

Diamond Vly Utd 1 Holland Park 4,
Hawthorn 2 Keysborough 3, Coburg 4 Lang-
warrin, Boronia 0 Lalor United 1, Karingal
Utd 3 Prahran 3, East Brunswick 2 Williamstown
1, Seaford Utd 1 Pascoe Vale 0

RESERVES

Diamond Vly Utd 5 Holland Park 2, Hawth-
orn 3 Keysborough 2, Coburg 0 Langwarrin 1,
Boronia 2 Lalor United 2, Karingal Utd 3
Prahran 1, East Brunswick 4 Williamstown 1,
Seaford Utd 2 Pascoe Vale 0

VIC 5 FIRST

Clayton 3 East Geelong 1, Central City bye,
Chelsea 1 Greensborough 0, Brighton 0
Ivanhoe City 2, Ballarat 0 Malvern City 1,
Ardeer 1 Nth Sunshine 0, Regent 0 Melton 0

RESERVES

Clayton 2 East Geelong 0, Central City bye,
Chelsea 4 Greensborough 3, Brighton 1
Ivanhoe City 1, Ballarat 4 Malvern City 1,
Ardeer 0 Nth Sunshine 1, Regent 2 Melton 1

VIC 6 FIRST

Glenroy 0 Monash Uni 1, Dingley Utd 1
Brunswick City 2, Cranbourne 2 Monbulk 1,
Berwick City 4 Mossfield 1, Forest Hill 2 Ascot
Vale City 1, Btman Utd 3 Wantirna 0, Sth Yar-
ra 1 Westmeadows 2

RESERVES

Glenroy 1 Monash Uni 1, Dingley Utd 1
Brunswick City 2, Cranbourne 2 Monbulk 1,
Berwick City 2 Mossfield 1, Forest Hill 2
Ascot Vale City 1, Btman Utd 1 Wantirna 0,
Sth Yarra 1 Westmeadows 2

VIC ONE

Ringwood City	24 17 2 5 40 13 36
Bulleen	23 16 3 4 35 13 35
Altona Gate	24 13 6 5 34 15 32
Sunbury Utd	24 13 6 5 35 21 32
Nth Dandenong	24 13 4 7 37 20 30
Knox City	24 12 5 7 36 24 29
Albion Rvrs	24 11 6 7 31 21 28
Essendon City	23 10 5 8 29 25 25
Werribee	24 5 10 9 22 28 27
Nunawading City	24 3 9 12 18 29 15
SM Mordialloc	24 4 7 13 24 43 15
Richmond	24 1 12 11 12 41 14
Doncaster Rvrs	24 4 4 16 19 50 12
Melbourne	24 3 5 16 12 49 11

RESERVES

Altona Gate	24 16 4 5 47 32 36
Nth Dandenong	23 15 3 5 52 26 33
Bulleen	23 11 6 6 47 37 28
Essendon City	23 11 5 7 47 35 27
Nunawading City	22 11 5 6 42 31 27
Knox City	24 10 6 6 56 35 26
Ringwood City	22 12 1 9 51 33 25
Doncaster Rvrs	22 10 5 7 42 41 25
Werribee	24 8 7 8 35 41 23
Melbourne	23 6 4 13 30 34 16
SM Mordialloc	24 6 4 14 32 51 16
Sunbury Utd	24 6 3 15 43 59 15
Albion	22 6 3 13 29 47 15
Richmond	22 4 2 16 27 98 10

VIC TWO

Sandringham	24 13 7 4 33 23 33
Moorebank	23 14 4 5 48 20 32
Westgate	23 14 4 5 53 32 32
Nth Geelong	23 12 6 5 40 29 30
Clifton Hill	24 11 7 6 46 28 29
Prahran City	24 9 9 6 48 33 27
Dandenong City	23 11 5 7 29 23 27
Waverley City	24 10 6 8 39 34 26
Altona City	23 6 9 8 33 31 21
Eltham	24 7 6 11 32 50 20
Ringwood Utd	22 6 7 9 28 30 19
Doveton	24 4 7 13 26 35 15
Hamlyn Rvrs	24 2 7 15 24 57 11
Mornington	23 1 4 18 16 69 6

VIC THREE

Clifton Hill	24 16 5 3 73 22 37
Doveton	22 15 6 1 55 13 36
Waverley City	24 12 7 5 58 33 31
Sandringham	24 12 7 5 52 31 31
Eltham	22 13 2 7 51 32 28
Moorebank	22 11 6 5 38 20 28
Westgate	22 10 4 8 38 28 24
Altona City	24 8 5 11 31 31 21
Nth Geelong	22 7 6 9 40 37 20
Dandenong City	22 7 6 9 25 24 20
Prahran City	23 7 1 15 42 51 15
Hamlyn Rvrs	24 6 12 21 43 14
Ringwood Utd	20 3 5 12 26 58 11
Mornington	23 0 0 23 10 129 0

VIC FOUR

Keilor	23 12 7 4 36 23 31
West Brunswick	21 13 3 5 39 20 29
Port Melbourne	21 10 6 5 37 26 26
Clarinda	22 9 7 6 41 33 25
Springvale Utd	21 10 4 7 36 38 24
Yallourn	22 7 8 7 26 22 22
Corio/Geelong	22 6 8 8 29 31 20
Bell Park	21 8 3 10 32 39 19
Moorabbin City	21 5 8 8 26 30 18
Moreland Pk Rgr	22 5 8 9 27 40 18
Geelong	21 8 1 12 25 37 17
Rosanna	22 6 4 12 29 34 16
F.T. Gully	21 6 3 12 27 38 15

VIC FIVE

Yallourn	22 15 3 4 66 19 33
Moorabbin City	21 14 5 2 56 14 33
West Brunswick	21 15 2 4 59 39 32
Port Melbourne	22 9 8 5 56 38 26
Clarinda	22 10 6 7 40 44 26
Springvale Utd	21 11 2 8 53 40 24
Port Melbourne	22 9 10 3 37 34 21
Corio/Geelong	21 6 7 8 34 37 19
F.T. Gully	21 7 3 11 35 50 17
Springvale Utd	20 6 1 13 31 60 13
Bell Park	20 3 6 11 19 51 12
Geelong	20 1 1 18 12 79 3

VIC SIX

Lalor Utd	23 14 5 4 29 15 33
Seaford Utd	24 13 4 7 38 28 30
Keysborough	24 10 8 6 47 32 28
Pascoe Vale	24 11 6 7 37 24 28
Coburg	23 10 7 6 43 31 27
Williamstown	24 10 7 7 38 34 27
Hawthorn	23 10 7 6 37 34 27
Holland Park	24 9 5 10 44 41 23
Langwarrin	23 8 6 9 25 29 22
Karingal Utd	24 6 6 12 34 46 18
East Brunswick	24 8 2 14 30 45 18
Prahran	24 7 4 13 25 47 18
Diamond Vly Utd	24 5 6 13 32 17
Boronia	24 5 6 13 28 36 16

VIC SEVEN

RESERVES						
Diamond Vly Utd	23	18	3	2	85	21
Lalor Utd	23	15	7	1	60	27
Hawthorn	23	12	6	5	55	30
Boronia	24	10	7	7	53	34
Langwarrin	24	10	7	7	38	27
Coburg	23	10	5	8	39	35
Karing Utd	24	10	4	10	40	37
Keysborough	22	8	7	7	29	28
Holland Park	22	10	3	9	46	47
Seaford Utd	24	9	4	11	49	22
Williamstown	24	5	7	12	51	70
Prahran	24	7	1	16	38	15
Passos Vale	24	3	16	35	56	13
East Brunswick	24	3	0	21	25	113

VICTORIA

Broadmeadows	14	5	2	7	31	30	12
Northcote City B	11	4	3	4	15	25	11
Bundoora	12	1	2	9	12	42	4
Lalor United	10	1	1	8	11	23	3

RICHMOND

Croydon City A	15	11	3	1	39	9	25
Preston A	15	10	2	3	39	13	22
Altona Gate A	14	8	2	4	24	14	18
Seaford	14	8	2	4	22	14	18
B.U. Juventus A	15	5	7	3	17	10	17
St Albans	15	5	5	4	18	15	15
Oakleigh A	15	4	6	5	25	24	14
St Melb His A	13	3	5	5	12	18	11
Mornington A	15	2	1	12	12	43	5
Sp Vale Utd	15	0	1	14	4	52	1

WESTERN A

Green Gully	15	12	2	1	48	8	26
S.S.G.X.	15	9	4	2	40	16	22
Nth Geelong	15	11	0	4	41	19	22
Yarraville	15	8	3	4	27	20	19
Brunswick City	15	5	4	6	23	23	14
Footscray	15	6	1	8	30	22	13
East Altona	15	3	6	6	25	22	12
Geelong City	15	3	6	6	16	30	12
Altona City	15	2	2	11	7	43	6
Keilor	15	2	0	13	13	67	4

WESTERN B

Wendee	14	11	2	1	62	13	24
Maribyrnong Utd	13	9	2	2	51	12	20
West United	13	7	3	3	32	13	17
Highpoint	11	8	0	3	36	21	16
Corio-Ging Utd	13	5	2	6	17	25	12
Altona Gate B	14	4	3	7	25	38	11
Albion	12	4	2	6	20	23	10
Sydenham Park	13	1	1	11	11	56	3
Hamlyn Rangers	13	1	1	11	7	59	3

UNDER 15

Waverley City	13	9	3	1	21	9	21
Sp Vale City	14	8	4	2	26	11	20
Oakleigh	14	7	2	5	28	19	16
Malvern City	13	6	3	4	20	16	15
Doncaster Rvrs A	14	5	5	4	26	24	15
Hawthorn A	12	6	2	4	31	17	14
Lyndale	13	3	4	6	13	18	10
Mooroolbark	14	3	3	8	11	22	9
St Sp Vale	13	0	1	12	9	46	1

EASTERN A

Clayton	15	11	4	0	93	22	26
Caullfield City A	14	9	3	2	41	18	21
S.M. Hellas	10	7	2	1	36	13	16
Karingal A	13	5	3	5	23	10	13
Brighton A	12	5	1	6	21	44	11
Nunawading City	12	3	4	5	24	38	10
Ferntree Gully	12	3	2	7	30	28	8
Glen Waverley	12	3	0	9	19	34	7
Box Hill	11	0	1	10	10	62	1

EASTERN C

Croydon City	14	12	0	2	78	24	24
Brighton B	11	11	0	0	82	3	22
Skye Rovers B	13	8	2	3	20	18	18
Pakenham	14	6	2	6	25	26	14
Seaford	12	4	2	6	21	28	10
Monbulk	13	3	2	6	14	52	8
Karingal B	13	3	1	9	20	39	7
Doncaster Rvrs B	13	1	5	7	9	34	7
Cranebourne	13	3	0	10	22	65	6

NTH WEST A

Geelong City	15	9	4	2	33	18	22
Fawkner	14	9	3	2	27	10	11
Green Gully	14	9	2	3	40	14	20
Bulleen	15	7	4	4	21	15	18
Moreland Mdw.	15	8	1	6	40	29	17
Northcote City	14	5	4	5	34	14	14
Thomastown	15	5	3	7	26	30	12
Lalor	15	4	4	7	22	21	13
Broadmeadows	16	2	3	11	21	58	7
Nth Reservoir	15	1	2	12	19	58	4

NTH WEST B

B.U. Juventus	8	7	1	0	11	11	15
Clifton Hill	8	5	1	2	38	21	11
Sydenham Park	8	5	0	3	30	22	10
Yarraville	6	2	0	4	17	17	4
Sunbury	6	1	1	4	5	21	3
St Marks	8	0	1	7	5	47	1

NTH WEST C

Greensborough	10	6	1	3	19	11	13
Northern United	8	5	2	1	21	11	12
Western Suburbs	7	5	1	1	27	8	11
Albion	8	3	2	3	27	12	8
Sunshine Park	9	3	2	4	25	17	8
Mossfield B	5	0	5	1	28	0	1
Hawthorn B	5	0	5	4	37	0	1

RICHMOND S/L

S.S.G.X.	15	11	2	2	38	9	24
Knox City	15	9	1	5	29	14	19
Altona Gate	14	7	5	2	30	18	19
Skye Rovers A	15	7	5	3	24	13	19
Melb Croatia	15	7	4	4	34	23	18
Preston	15	4	7	1	17	15	15
Footscray	13	4	5	4	24	13	13
East Richmond	15	3	4	8	17	48	10
Heidelberg Utd	15	1	4	10	9	26	6
Mossfield	14	1	1	12	6	36	3

UNDER 16

Bulleen	15	13	1	1	37	8	27
Seaford	15	11	2	2	53	17	24
Sp Vale Utd	14	10	3	1	30	10	23
Waverley City A	14	6	3	5	21	22	15
Sp Vale Condors	15	5	4	6	26	21	14
Ferntree Gully	15	5	1	9	26	40	11
Clarinda	15	5	1	9	19	40	11
Nunawading City	15	5	0	10	25	30	10
Sp Vale City	15	3	4	8	21	27	10
Keysborough	15	1	1	13	10	53	3

EASTERN B

East Richmond	13	10	1	2	72	18	21
Port Melbourne	10	9	0	1	47	8	18
Karingal	11	6	2	3	32	19	14
Berwick City	10	8	1	3	30	12	13
Sandringham	11	5	1	5	32	20	11
Doncaster Rvrs	11	3	1	7	26	29	7
Melbourne	10	1	0	9	26	66	2
Beaumaris	10	0	0	10	9	102	0

NTH WEST A

Clifton Hill	14	12	0	2	42	14	24
Fawkner	14	11	2	1	40	14	24
Meadow Park A	15	10	2	3	30	20	22
Nth Geelong	15	9	2	4	36	22	20
Lalor United	15	8	2	5	47	26	18
Melb Croatia	15	6	2	7	27	26	14
West United	15	3	3	9	17	33	7
Altona City	15	2	3	10	27	36	7
Ascot Vale City	15	3	0	12	21	42	6
Bundoora	15	2	0	13	18	70	4

NTH WEST B

Essendon City	14	13	0	1	107	15	26
Heidelberg Utd	13	10	0	3	94	16	20
Wendee	13	9	0	4	65	22	18
Greensborough	13	8	0	5	43	29	16
Prahran	12	8	0	4	33	21	16
Hamlyn Rangers	12	5	1	6	27	44	11
Meadow Park B	13	3	0	10	25	48	6
Eltham	13	2	1	10	11	98	5
Melton	13	1	0	12	10	98	2

RICHMOND S/L

S'shine Heights	15	11	1	3	43	28	23
Malvern City	15	10	2	3	57	27	22
S.S.G.X.	15	8	2	5	31	20	18
B.U. Juventus	14	6	5	4	27	24	17
St Springvale	15	4	5	6	26	34	13
Preston	15	4	3	8	26	11	13
Caullfield City	14	5	1	8	20	37	10
Oakleigh	14	4	2	8	24	37	10
Mordialloc	14	1	4	9	15	36	6

UNDER 18

VSE EASTERN

Mulgrave	17	11	3	3	51	34	25
Waverley Utd	17	11	0	6	40	26	22
Mooroolbark	15	7	3	5	32	18	17
Doncaster Rvrs	15	7	3	5	28	23	17
Sp Vale Condors	15	7	3	5	35	32	17
Seaford	16	7	1	8	40	31	15
Croydon City	13	5	4	4	24	24	14
Clayton	17	7	0	10	34	40	14
Malvern City	16	6	2	8	22	32	14
Ringwood City	16	6	1	9	39	46	13
Skye Rovers	17	3	0	14	22	63	6

VSE NORTHERN

B.U. Juventus	18	12	4	2	55	16	28
St Melb Hellas	17	11	3	3	50	18	25
Nth Geelong	16	12	1	3	49	22	25
Melb Croatia	18	10	5	3	49	26	25
Clifton Hill	17	10	2	5	44	25	22
Green Gully	18	7	6	5	40	32	20
Northcote City	17	8	2	7	34	39	18
Heidelberg Utd	16	6	2	8	25	37	11
Oakleigh	18	4	3	11	30	57	11
West Brunswick	17	3	2	12	20	49	8
Eltham	18	2	2	14	25	77	6
Nth Reservoir	16	1	2	13	11	34	4

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EMU EXPORT STATE LEAGUE

STATE LEAGUE

Stirling	20	15	1	4	50	26	46
Perth Azz	20	12	3	5	40	24	39
Floraet	20	10	7	3	50	26	37
Spanwood	20	10	4	6	46	30	34
K'way OI	20	10	3	7	27	20	33
B'water Int	20	10	2	8	36	35	32
Gosnells C	20	7	6	7	23	24	27
E'F mantle	20	8	3	9	26	29	27
C'bum U.	20	6	2	12	21	50	20
Lyndwood	20	5	4	11	20	31	19
Balga	20	4	3	13	28	42	15
Osborne PK	20	3	2	15	19	49	11

LEADING GOALSCORERS: Mike Smith (Dalmatinac), John Hunter (Macedonia) 16; Frank Bate (Macedonia) 14; Ian Ballentine (Azzurri), Frank Smerilli (Bayswater) 13; Paul Middleton (Tricolore), 12; Ross Greer (Dalmatinac), Paul Wormley (Athena), Steve Whitehead (Balga) 10.

QUEENSLAND

XXXX LEAGUE TABLE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ons	21	16	1	4	56	18	33	
orth Star	21	14	5	2	44	20	33	
zzurri BC	21	13	6	2	45	21	32	
sts	21	10	4	7	38	27	24	
Gravatt	21	9	4	8	39	32	22	
lympic Utd	21	9	2	10	34	38	20	
aldstars	21	7	5	9	31	30	19	
chlands Utd	21	6	5	10	28	48	17	
chedale	21	5	5	11	29	50	15	
wich	21	4	6	11	25	31	14	
ange Thistle	21	3	6	12	10	35	12	
inga R.	21	4	3	14	25	54	11	

SAINTS DEMOLISH CROATIA 7-2

BY Alistair Russell

CROATIA's semi-final hopes were dashed last Sunday as second-placed St George gave the Edensor Park based side their heaviest defeat of the season.

Following the defeat Croatia must now take three points from their remaining games, two against APIA and the other against Uruguay Penrith, to beat Marconi into fifth.

The task is not impossible, but considering the manner in which the Saints, spurred on by a Graeme Fletcher hat-trick, took them apart at Lambert Park the position looks grim.

Sydney Olympic rolled along at the top of the League with a midweek 5-0 whitewash of Canterbury and a 2-0 away win

over Marconi last Sunday. John Kosmina scored in the defeat of the Berries and Marshall Soper opened the scoring on Sunday at Marconi.

In other games Melita cemented a play-off spot with a 1-0 win over Manly, Trevor Daley netting the only goal from the spot. Sutherland scored their biggest win of the season against bottom Warringah. The Shire won 10-0 against only eight men, Mick Lardis bagging a hat-trick.

APIA meanwhile moved calmly into third with a 4-0 win over Uruguay on Saturday but Uruguay bounced back to fight out a 2-2 draw with Canterbury the following day.

**ST GEORGE 7
CROATIA 2**

ST George handed out a warning to champions

Olympic for the coming semi-finals with a demolition of sixth-placed Croatia.

The Saints were always in control, taking the lead in the 20th minute through George Kulcsar. From then the goals just kept coming. Zoran Ilic, the league's top scorer and arguably the finest player in the competition, added the second three minutes later and Fletcher made it 3-0 at the interval.

St George continued to dominate the midfield, Fletcher added two more for his hat-trick, with Ken Slavski and Steve Dimoudis in the 90th minute finishing the rout.

In reply Tony Krslovic, Croatia's ace marksman, scored twice in the 82nd and 84th minutes to reduce the deficit, but the Saints took all the honours in handing Croatia a footballing lesson.

While St George settle down to a top three place Croatia may struggle to qualify for the top five, as they must still play APIA twice and Uruguay whom they should overcome easily.

St George: Bouhoutsos (Filan), Harmat, Kotevski, Naumovski, Drossos (Martone), Kulcsar, Ilic, Dimoudis, Morakass (Talevski), Slavski, Fletcher. Best players: Bill Kotevski, Robert Harmat, Steve Dimoudis.

Croatia: Vuletic, McLean, Sekulic, Grubba, Whant, Alilovic, Kardum, Voloder, Krslovic, Orlic (Kero), Tomic (Milicevic). Best players: Tony Krslovic, John Sekulic, Jason Whant.

**MELITA 1
MANLY 0**

Although the Eagles have two matches to play, last Sunday they secured a top five place with a narrow 1-0 win over Manly.

The victory puts them into fourth a point ahead of Marconi, who have

finished all their games for the season. The winner came after 71 minutes when Trevor Daley coolly slotted the ball home from the penalty spot.

Melita, the only State League side to qualify in the finals, deserved to win by a greater margin but failed to hit the target on three or four occasions.

Paul Rago, who made his first grade debut on Friday against Kuring-gai at the age of 16, was denied in the 10th minute by a brilliant save from Michael Beckett who thwarted the Eagles striker from six metres.

In the 19th minute Ashton headed just over from six metres for the Eagles, and at the other end a Steve Wassell drive from 25 metres was fumbled by Blow and hit the post.

However Melita were always in control and in the

64th minute Greg Dickinson missed an open goal from six metres after Dalton had laid off a perfect pass.

Darren Pratt put Bath through seven minutes later and the striker was tackled heavily in the box, Daley giving Melita the valuable points from the spot.

Melita: Blow, Pratt, Daley, Versi, Ashton, Pidcock, Dalton, Blake, Rago (Klinkacovski), Bath, Dickinson. Best players: Darryl Pidcock, Darren Pratt, Scott Ashton.

Manly: Beckett, Reeves, Chung, Vale, Ure, Logan, Greaves, Glascock, Wills, Wassell, Bourke (England). Best players: Robbie Ure, Gordon Reeves, Steve Wassell.

**OLYMPIC 2
MARCONI 0**

Olympic continued their procession at the top of the table undefeated and almost surely accounted for Marconi's semi-final prospects at the same time.

The Leopards desperately needed to win their last match to put pressure on Croatia, however late goals from Marshall Soper and Andy Harper sealed the points for Olympic.

Bruce James pulled off two fine saves in a matter of seconds from Jason Bennett early in the first half and despite the need for both sides to win the teams were locked at 0-0 at the break.

In the 66th minute Bennett, who had an outstanding match, just cleared the bar with a superb volley.

Olympic took the lead in the 71st minute when Marshall Soper collected the ball at the edge of the Marconi area and beat James with a looping shot into the far corner.

Two minutes from time Andy Harper sealed the result for Olympic when he raced into the Marconi area and pushed his shot under the advancing James.

Marconi: James, Ortega, Rizzotto, Agiasotis, Sterrey, Surjan, Cortes, Curko, Russo, Carbone, Loran. Best players: Freddie Ortega, Kerry Agiasotis, Paul Cortes.

Olympic: Londres, Barrett, Briggs, Haniotis, Georgakis, Oustambasidis (Rafenes), Pontidas, Bennett (Hrist), Chillas, Soper, Harper.

QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND's XXXX League will come to a fitting climax this weekend when the premiership and relegation battles are decided in what is certain to be an epic clash at Richlands.

Competition leaders Lions will need a win to ensure they clinch the league and a place in the NSL promotion play-offs while Taringa Rovers must secure two points to have any hope of avoiding the drop into division two.

This weekend's final round of fixtures will bring the curtain down on a season for which even the Queensland Soccer Federation could not have hoped would turn out any more exciting. At the beginning of the year most predicted former NSL side Lions would gallop away with the title — that has not been the case.

And going into last weekend's second last round, it was a three-way tie at the top of the table and a battle in two to avoid the relegation spot.

But Lions came good when it counted and registered a 2-0 win over Coalstars last weekend in a fixture many tipsters speculated they would drop a

LIONS WANT SHARE

point and blow the league.

But the match was not without controversy. Referee Garth Goodwin accidentally called a halt to play in the first half three minutes early then realised after the players had left the field.

After consolation with the coaches the players returned after the break for three minutes of "extra-time", started by a bounce ball before spinning around for the second half.

And although the teams went to the dressing shed locked 0-0, the "halftime" score was 1-0 to Lions after Lions gained a penalty in the three minutes "extra-time".

After a run of outs with penalty takers, former Socceroo Russell Stewart, the player many had nominated should have been Lions spot kicker all season, was given his chance and coolly sent Coalstars keeper Kim Wishart the wrong way.

Queensland winger Jim Morton wrapped up the match for the leaders when he curled in a second half corner.

North Star maintained the pressure on Lions with a 3-2 win over Easts but Azzurri Brisbane City, the other team in the three-

way tie, fell off the pace after shock 3-3 draw at Taringa.

At first Taringa thought the point might be enough to allow them to claw above Thistle in the fight against relegation.

But the smiles were quickly wiped from the Taringa supporters faces when the news came from Goodwin Park that Thistle had registered their first win since July and the two points from their 1-0 victory over Olympic put them a point above Rovers and almost certainly guaranteed them safety.

It was an unhappy end to what had been a fighting day for Taringa. They led City twice and then came back from 2-3 down to register the draw.

"We blew the premiership. When you score three goals you expect to win. We had this game 100 percent, but we let them score," said a disappointed Azzurri coach Juan Cutillas after the match.

North Star also had to come from behind to stay in premiership contention with their win over Easts. The fourth-placed Tigers raced to a 2-0 lead but it was a goal just seconds before halftime by Alan

Marley which put North Star back in the match, and two fine goals in the second half by man of the match, Michael Mulvey, gave North Star the win.

The Easts loss opened a semi-final avenue for Mount Gravatt, who snared a final minute goal to beat Ipswich United 3-2 at Dittmer Park last weekend.

If the Hawks can down Azzurri Brisbane City by two goals in the final round and Coalstars beat Easts by a similar margin, Mount Gravatt will edge Easts out of fourth place.

In the other match of last weekend Redlands won their local derby against Rochdale 2-1 to set themselves to finish higher in the table. The two teams were intense rivals in division two last year and were promoted together this season, with most tipsters expecting Rochdale to do better.

The final round of XXXX League fixtures this weekend is: Saturday: Rochdale v North Star; Sunday: Lions v Taringa, Azzurri Brisbane City v Mount Gravatt Easts v Coalstars, Grange Thistle v Redlands, Ipswich United v Olympic United.

GREG RUSSELL



BOTH Peter Raskopoulos (left) and Tony Dakos (right) will be absent from the Sydney Olympic line-up this weekend.

DAKOS AND RASKO OUT FOR MELBOURNE CROATIA CLASH

TONY DAKOS and PETER RASKOPOULOS are out of Sydney Olympic's line-up for the match against the visiting Melbourne Croatia at the St George Stadium on Sunday.

Raskopoulos suffered a nasty wound to his right shin when tackled heavily last Sunday by Marconi's Gerardo Gomez.

The wound required four stitches after the match.

Dakos, who in the last two matches has played in a new role as an attacking midfielder, was booked against Marconi and has accumulated enough penalty points to attract an automatic one match suspension.

Sydney Olympic's assistant coach, Mick Hickman, said last night: "With Dakos and Rasko out, we will have to pull striker Abbas Saad into midfield and also reinstate Stuart Johnston."

"These two will link up with Gary Phillips and Vicente Estavillo."

"We will probably bring back into the strike-line John Kosmina to link up with Terry Patalis."

Hickman, who is in complete charge of Sydney Olympic whilst senior coach Eddie Thomson is in New Zealand with the Australian team, has a great respect for Melbourne Croatia.

"Make no mistake, Sunday's match will be very tough for us."

"Melbourne Croatia

has a strong line-up with two tough centre-backs in Davie McIntosh and Robbie Dunn.

"Upfront, they have plenty of pace and experience in Ian Wallace and Paul Lewis. Alan Davidson at right back is a great organiser", Hickman said.

Melbourne Croatia have edged themselves into third spot on the NSL ladder, despite dropping a valuable League point against Footscray last Sunday.

Sydney Olympic's 1-1 draw last Sunday against Marconi, has seen them slide down the ladder into seventh spot. Olympic is now in danger of missing out in the Top Five play-offs in five weeks time.

Kosmina, with only five goals to his credit, has gone goal-less since the mid-season break. He now will face an enormous task on Sunday to bust through McIntosh and Dunn, regarded by many as the League's best twin centre-back combination.

JOHN ECONOMOS

TREBLE FOR HELLAS?

**SOUTH
AUSTRALIA**

ADELAIDE Hellas, with the SA State League title wrapped up, are facing a quandary tonight.

They play Croatia in the final of the Coca Cola Top Four Cup then on Saturday line up in the West End

Premier Cup for the top eight teams.

But coach Peter Jaksa must make a hard tactical decision - does he go for the treble or does he use the games as a slow warm-up for the West End National League qualifying playoffs against the champions from Queensland and Victoria?

If he uses all his regular

players and releases them at full steam he risks injuries and suspensions, which could cost him a National League position.

If he does not use his key men they may go off the boil by playoff time.

Hellas kicked off the home and away premier series at Hindmarsh Stadium against Para Hills, one of the middle-of-the-roads and unpredictable.

Campbelltown, last

year's league champions and beaten PGH Federation Cup finalists last week, go in against Croatia.

Campbelltown went down 1-0 in a Federation Cup thriller against Birkalla when only the Red Devils' goalkeeper Robbie Parks and three goal-line clearances from defenders prevented Birks running riot.

In the other premier Cup

games Salisbury, beaten in the Coca Cola Top Four by Croatia, take on Beograd whom Hellas knocked out of the Coca Cola Cup.

If Salisbury can turn off their defensive attitude they may ring up a first leg win, but Beograd are the more attack-minded team and took Hellas into extra time in the Coca Cola series.

Campbelltown are trying to salvage some

pride after taking out the 1986 League title then failing this season to even make the top four.

Croatia's two clashes could go either way on current form. But Croatia, who soldiered on with 10 men from the 18th minute to make the Coca Cola Cup final, showed they will fight all the way and Campbelltown may have done their dash against Birkalla in the Federation Cup final.

In the other Premier Cup match outsiders Polonia and Lion who just scraped in to the top eight will fight out two legs which only a fanatical supporter would dare forecast.

Croatia coach Johnny Nyskohus may decide to go all out for tonight's Coca Cola Cup and with at least one title this year could let his men relax for the West End Premier Cup campaign.



The Wide World of Football

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY present the best coverage of the world game as **FRANK COLETTA** brings you the latest news and views along with the best pics from overseas.

ARSENAL striker Champagne Charlie Nicholas has slapped in another transfer request and Glasgow Celtic are already knocking on the Gunners' door to sign the wayward Scotsman.

AC Milan have said that new signings Ruud Cullit and Marco Van Basten will not be released to play for the Netherlands against Belgium in a friendly international today (9th September).

A club spokesman, Guido Sussini, said the decision had been agreed with the players who are due to make their first competitive appearance for Milan only four days later.

Sussini said Milan would respect an agreement with the Dutch Soccer Association to release Gullit and Van Basten for seven internationals a year.

Newly promoted Setubal, coached by Malcolm Allison, provided the first shock of the season when they beat champions Benfica 1-0 on their own ground on Sunday to become the early lead-

ers of the First Division.

Striker Aparicio scored the only goal from a corner in only the second minute and Setubal fell back on a packed defence to frustrate Benfica for the rest of the match. Benfica hit the bar four times but were unable to find a way through. The win was Setubal's second in two games.

Danish international defender John Sivebaek has signed a four year contract with French First Division club St Etienne.

Sivebaek will join St Etienne after less than a year with the English side Manchester United. He could not get a place there after they signed England defender Viv Anderson from Arsenal in the close season.

West German club Bayer Leverkusen have signed Brazilian striker Tita for \$533,333 to replace their injured South Korean Cha Bum Kun.

The 29 year old Tita, real name Milton Queiro da Paxao, joined Leverkusen on a two-year contract, worth \$733,333, from Vasco de Gama.



BRYAN ROBSON

Rangers boss Graeme Souness is primed for another raid on English soccer — the target this time Colin Gibson.

The big-spending Scottish champions have pin-pointed the Manchester United defender as an ideal reinforcement to help solve the early season crisis at Ibrox.

Souness, likely to offer in the region of £250,000 has noted that Gibson has failed to make the first team for United's kick off in the English First Division.

Second Division Blackburn Robbers want to sign out of favour Steve Archibald from Barcelona.

Rovers cannot afford to buy the £1 million Scot, but the deal could be financed by sponsorship.

Blackburn boss Don Mackay is keeping in touch with Barcelona manager Terry Venables in case Archibald becomes available.

Archibald looks likely to be out in the cold with the Spanish giants, now that West German Bernd Schuster is apparently about to join Gary Lineker among Venables' permitted overseas players.

FC Porto, who beat Bayern Munich to win the European Cup last May, beat the West German club again in the final of the Juan Gamper football tournament last week.

After a goal-less first half Senedo (49) and Madjer (89) clinched the 2-0 victory.

Barcelona beat Ajax Amsterdam 3-2 in the play-off for third place.

Defending champions Benfica opened Portugal's season with a 3-0 win over newly-promoted Covilha last week.

Covilha withstand Benfica's onslaught in the first half, but the dam burst one minute into the second half with a goal by striker Diamantino. He scored again ten minutes later.

Rui Aguas rounded off the scoring for the visiting Lisbon side with a goal a minute before the end.

Sporting Lisbon recorded the highest score of the day when they beat Rio Ave 4-1. Brazilian Paulinho Cascavel scored twice for Sporting, one of them from the penalty spot.

European champions Porto, who won the Juan Gamper trophy last week in Spain by defeating Bayern Munich 2-0, played their first league match against Belenenses last Wednesday.

David Lowe, who played last season for Mt Maunganui, has transferred from Wigan to Ipswich for £80,000.

Stewart McKimmie has signed a new contract with Aberdeen. Now manager Ian Porterfield is desperate to try and get Jim Leighton to sign another contract.

The Scottish international's contract is up at the end of the season and you don't need a crystal ball to predict that Manchester United's Alex Ferguson is interested.

Osvord's failure to agree a fee with QPR for the transfer of Kevin Brock to Sherriffs Bush means the deal will now end at the Transfer Tribunal.

INJURIES rule out Bryan Robson (England), Kenny Jackett (Wales) and Graeme Sharp (Scotland) for Wednesday's Internationals.

Derby's former Watford winger Nigel Callaghan could be on his way back south. He says: "I like the club, but I am having trouble settling in the area."

Substitute Kevin Wilson gave Chelsea the boost they needed to overturn a runaway lead by Nottingham Forest and handed Queen's Park Rangers the chance to strengthen their position at the top of the English first division.

Wilson was sent to the rescue at the start of the second half when things looked bad for Chelsea — 3-1 down at home to Forest — who began the day level with Manchester United only two points behind QPR.

The switch, with Kerry Dixon going off, fired Chelsea, who were haunted by memories of a 6-2 defeat by Forest last season.

Wilson began by heading just wide and then helped in the second of two Chelsea goals in as many minutes, teaming up with namesake Clive Wilson, who scored the qualifier.

A final Chelsea goal by defender Steve Clarke in the 67th minute sealed the result at 4-3, giving Forest their first defeat of the season and checking their pursuit of the League leaders.

With Manchester United drawing 0-0 at Coventry in a tough-tackling match, Rangers were able to move four points clear thanks to their 1-0 victory over bottom-placed Charlton.

Chelsea moved into the third place vacated by Forest, also on 12 points. United obviously missed the calming influence of captain Bryan Robson, who is out with a thigh injury.

Fraying tempers on both sides culminated in Coventry forward Nick Pickering being sent off after 58 minutes for a foul on Viv Anderson.

United's Danish forward Jesper Olsen took a lot of early punishment. He needed medical attention after being caught by David Speedie's elbow in the opening seconds and two minutes after was the victim of a late tackle which earned Dave Phillips a booking.

Four other players were booked and United manager Alex Ferguson joined the referee's list for protesting about an action by Coventry striker David Speedie.

QPR manager Jim Smith's unswerving faith in a five-man defensive system using England's Terry Fenwick as sweeper paid off again as the team comfortably absorbed early pressure from a Charlton side, vainly seeking their first points of the season.

Former England under-21 striker Dean Coney headed home the ball after 37 minutes for his first goal since moving to QPR from Fulham for Stg200,000 (\$A461,680) this summer.

A bad back pass by captain Alan Hansen cost Liverpool their season's 100 per cent victory record.

They were leading 1-0 at West Ham after a 51st-minute penalty by John Aldridge, when Hansen turned the ball back towards goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar only to see West Ham striker Tony Cottee intercept and score.

Liverpool, who have yet to play at home this season because of repairs being carried out on their terraces, could have had a hat-trick from Aldridge in the first half.

Two Aldridge shots were saved by goalkeeper Tom McAllister and a third hit the post.

A capacity crowd of 23,000 gathered at Newcastle to watch Brazilian Mirandinha make his home debut against Wimbledon.

But although the 28-year-old International produced Newcastle's best first-half chance, which was saved, his talents were over-shadowed by heavy fouling from the visitors, who won 2-1.

Wimbledon had five players booked in a fast and furious first half in which both goals were scored. The opener was an own goal by Newcastle keeper Martin Thomas.

Champions Everton lost the chance of valuable points when Tottenham held them to a draw after Trevor Steven had missed a penalty just before the interval.

In the third division, Gillingham established a club record with a 10-0 defeat of Chesterfield, after their 8-1 thrashing of Southend last weekend.

Hearts joined Celtic and Aberdeen at the top of the Scottish Premier League — all on nine points — after a 2-0 win over Morton.

Celtic drew 0-0 with Dundee United, who had an early goal disallowed for a hand ball.

Scottish champions Rangers, with player-manager Graeme Souness in action again despite his threats to give up the game after being sent off last week, beat Dundee 2-1.

SCARES FOR RUSH

WELSH superstar Ian Rush is out of soccer for a month after what he describes as the most traumatic time of his life.

But he is thanking his lucky stars that his his still alive following a horror flight that "scared the daylights from the Juventus team."

Rush was on the private jet that was bringing the Juventus side back to Turin from a pre-season friendly against Lecce in Lombardy.

The jet was caught in a freak wind storm as it went into land and was flipped, terrifyingly, on its side. The pilot managed to right the aircraft and aborted the landing.

Horrified air traffic controllers who monitored the incident on their radar and from the control tower of Turin airport thought the jet was certain to crash.

Instant visions of the

Manchester United air disaster of 1985, when the cream of the Busby Babes perished, came to mind.

The team later emerged at Turin airport to applause from the waiting hordes of Italian Press. But a white-faced Rush was too shaken by the incident to speak. He hates flying at the best of times.

Juventus keeper Stefano Tacconi said: "We were terrified. I have lived through an earthquake. But I have never been as frightened as when we were on that plane."

"Players were praying for salvation. It was a nightmare. We were lucky to get out alive."

The mid-air terror came just 24 hours after Rush tore knee ligaments in the 3-0 win over Lecce in southern Italy. Rush did not score. The Juventus club doctor says he will be out of soccer for at least a month. (Juventus' opening league fixture is on 13

September and the first leg of their first round UEFA Cup match against Valetta in Malta is three days later.)

One way and another it has been an awful two weeks for Rush, who on a trip into Turin before the Lecce trip crashed his brand new £12,000 Lancia into a street tram.

Write-off

The Lancia was a write-off. But he following day Juventus delivered another new one to his door.

The wealthiest club in Italy aren't worried about a tiny thing like the loss of a middle-market car. Especially when the chairman of Juventus owns the Fiat empire. But they are extremely concerned about the battering Rush has been taking from the hatchet men of Italian First Division.

But the 26 year old Welshman was still in a

confident mood in spite of his injury. He said: "It's not the first time I've had ligament trouble. I heal quickly."

"The biggest problem, I feel, is the damage to my thigh muscle. I rely on my acceleration and if the muscle isn't 100 per cent it will slow me down."

Rush could be indulging in false optimism over his return. Juventus physio Luciano de Maria says: "He took a terrible kick in in the game. Apart from the knee damage the thigh is also badly bruised."

"Part of the muscle has separated and that will take time to heal. If he returns too early he could suffer permanent damage."

So concerned are Juventus that they are now considering activating a one million pound insurance policy that is designed specifically to protect them from the loss of Rush through injury.

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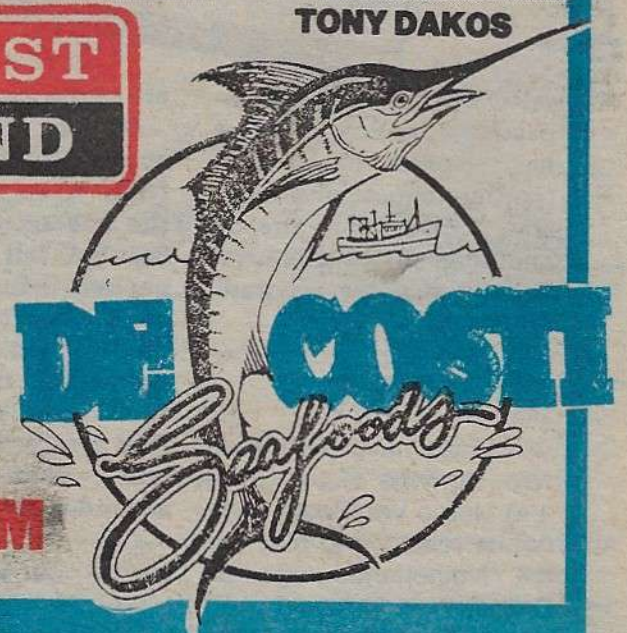


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